

Ann Arbor, January 24th 1844

Dear Brother, Day after day passes away and the month is wearing to a close and this letter not wrote. No sleiding yet an open winter so far. But little snow, and not severe freezing. We are working at the Gristmill. Our share of that job hangs on. Two of the floors are nearly laid and lumber in the boardwalk for the other floor. The flour box is not built yet. It will take a month yet to get the water down to the mill. The Millrights are to work but are not ready for the water. They are putting in a Machinery wheel besides the two main water wheels that run the Stone. The runner or upper stone weighs 4400 pounds its four and an half feet in diameter. The lower stone weighs 1100. The freight from Detroit to this place was \$11 (eleven). Wheat is 58 to 60 in Ann Arbor and 62 in Ypsilanti. One of the company is storing wheat in our mill now. He pays 2 cents per Bu. for hauling from Ann Arbor. Two loads came to day 44 Bu. in one and 56 in the other. Two horses in each team. The news of the day is that Postmaster in Ann Arbor is removed: the news came ten days ago. There has been two indignation meetings held in Ann Arbor. They were said to be quite noisy. I did not attend, not having time. It was an unpopular move but John Tyler is a mean scoundrel, and his conduct is in accordance. The elections went sadly against us in Michigan, each congressional district more than 2000 majority, and the Washtenaw district the worst of the whole. This County the Loco majority was about 200. Ann Arbor gave 62 whig maj. on the Governor. We are the banner township now. 45 was Gen. Harrison's majority. Notwithstanding all this some will have it: that Clay will get the State. I think the chances are against us. Even though Van Buren will be their candidate of which there is but little doubt. The Loco. State Convention was held in Ann Arbor last week, and Van Buren men were nominated to the Baltimore Convention. Now as I am writing of Politics I will tell you if you are coming to Michigan next spring. I wish you would make your calculations to be in Michigan in time to vote next fall. If you get into Detroit before four of the clock P.M. May 5th you will have a right to vote next fall at the general elections. If you are later than that you will have no vote. As the Whigs are to make an effort next fall, with fair prospects and a noble cause I hope there will be no failure on your part. The State may go against us. But the County I think will not. I was sorry to hear that William Cowly bolted in his old

As it respects a House. you can have one either in Ann Arbor, or Ypsilanti
or we will build a small one in our village for you. Our Sawmill house is 20x16
that would be too small for you. We have rented it to our mill men. They have turned
it into a boarding house. We are to have 50 pr week and I find them in slabs to
burn. Next year I will let them find their own wood. The Ypsilanti house it is rented
for 75 pr week. The house tolerable and in a good place. Two fifths of an acre is attached
to it. That you might have for 62 1/2 pr week cash. The man that rents it now is poor
pay, and it is doubtful whether I will get 62 1/2 not withstanding he has promised 75
I think this house would answer you. The location is good. The house 1 1/2 story, and a cellar
kitchen. it is rather small but would do. It belongs to Lane Estate. The house in Ann
Arbor belongs to the Sawmill. It is 1 1/2 stories two rooms below, its almost out of the
village and stands on high ground. There is a water cistern, belonging to it; no well
(The Ypsilanti house has a well but no cistern) I rented it last summer for 75 pr week
I rented it last Dec. for 62 1/2 cash to paid monthly. I called upon him at the end of the
month but he was not at home so I did not get my pay. We have owned that house
over 1 1/2 years and have not got a cent of rent yet. You can have this house for 50
In our village you could keep a cow. In Ypsilanti, or Ann Arbor, a cow would cost
more than she would come to. Houses in this country are rented all time of the year
I think it likely I will have to drive off both these tenants at any rate I will not rent
them till you come, or I hear from you. Jan. 17th I wrote the above on Monday evening
Tuesday. I received four newspapers The New York Evangelist, New York Tribune, State
journal of Ann Arbor, and the North American from you. 30 Tuesday evening I
read Newspapers. My expenses for 1843 after deducting 30.48 for holidays who boarded
with me while working in Grist or Sawmill was \$391.40. Religious \$70.22 1/2. Items \$30.00
for repairing Meeting house. \$25.00. For Mr Wead, pastor \$2.00 for a Mr Bates who preached
at Cooper's corners last winter. for New York Evangelist and postage \$3.28. Foreign Miss. Society
4.00. Home Miss. Society 2.00. Education Society 1.00. For wood & fixing stoves. 2.00. & Communion collec-
tion .94. Medicine 12.23 1/2. Items 3 bottles of Quinia Chologogue pr Aque 1.50 pr bottle. Brandy
2.12 1/2 & Sugar 150 1/2 lbs, cost \$4.15. Tea 1 1/2 lbs cost, 10.29 1/2. Coffee 27 lbs cost 3.72. Molasses 9 1/2
gal. cost 4.63 1/2. Wheat 37 1/2 Bu. cost \$21.80. Flour 387 lbs cost \$6.84. Butter 34 lbs cost 4.25. Beef
499 lbs cost 13.36 1/2 (This includes what I bought last winter and this fall) Pork 720 lbs cost \$25.20
lard 30 lbs cost 8.2-10. Cheese 20 lbs \$1.25. Apples 17 Bu \$4.00. Plums one Bu \$1.00. Peaches one Bu
37 1/2. Cider one barrel \$2.00 & the Barrel \$1.00. Quinces one peck .50. Cranberries one Bu 75
Salonatus 7 lbs .64. Raisins & Candy \$1.44. Calico 108 yds \$14.78. Factory. Brown Shirting, cotton
59 1/2 yds \$5.64 1/2. Schooling \$0.39. Shirts 1.10 1/2. Paper, Ink, & Spelling Book .675. My expenses \$16.95
for clothing (this does not include my shirts, nor stockings) Family 22.15 1/2. The same excursions
with myself Delta \$6.00. This does not include all Delta expenses. The Calico the women get
amongst them. Maid hire \$27.00. Work for me, that is men hire \$19.08 1/2. Letter postage 1.75
Newspaper Postage besides Evangelist 1.00. Thread 1.11 1/2. Keros. 5.96. Hay & Bran for Cows
13.36 1/2. Tax, \$18 1/2. Besides Sawmill, & Besides Road tax. Cellar, 16.11 1/2. House expenses
many items \$40.70. Books 39.84. Botsford and me bought North's Family Library 157
volumes, each took half. The whole cost 63.18. Alison Europe \$4.00. Brand Encyclopaedia
3.00. American Orchardist 1.00. I believe these sums overrun the Total a little
I have not time to rectify it now. I will straiten it, at my leisure. I will continue to keep
my ex accounts this year and see how it will come out again, you will think there is
great room for improvement or rather retrenchment. My Religious expenses would astonish
me if I was not used to it. But I must cut that down at least one half this year
Medicine looks large and is large I used but little of it myself, not 25 worth
School bill very small only 32. Books will not cost me much next year.
I sawed last year 332,805 feet (843 logs) at 1.00 pr thousand. makes \$332.80 1/2
I had some help for which I paid \$3.00. Which leaves my personal income \$329.80 1/2
My tax is small but that does not include the Sawmill. The Sawmill pays its
own tax. I did not buy any Keros, it was their feed that cost \$3.96. I got a little
interest money not ten dollars. I sold some Ashes. I will keep an acct. of my in-
come this year. We got a letter from the Senawee County Geddes, lately
they cannot pay us anything this season. to the old gentleman's great sorrow
I am more sorry for him, than for myself, for he does not pay the interest
which keeps eating away at his farm. It must know quite a hole in after a
while, at 10 pr cent. Indeed I am glad we have got the mill off our hands
for there is no dependance to be placed in the people that owe us. It is not be-
cause they are dishonest but because their income barely gives them a living. Wheat
I am told to day is 62 1/2 in Ann Arbor (Jan. 20th) Wages is too high for the price of
Grain here. Pork \$3 1/2 pr purn. But still the people in this country display too
much; or too proud, for the ability of the country. The improvements than necessary
must be, or is made in all new countries use up the means of the owners and there is
a disposition in many to stretch as far as they can hoping that they will be able
to get through. hope and selfishness spur them on as long as they can get credit
many are overwhelmed and others drag themselves along. Like Don Quixote sailing
retreating from Moscow a few at last emerge but the migs are left behind
Your tax this past year is \$9.67. Which I have paid. Its \$4.50 less than 1842

Jan. 24th This ought to have been ^{sent} last week but company and business
prevented it. Same this week. Monday and Tuesday nights company
No Snow yet. The weather is cold to day. Our tax is ~~one~~ quarter
higher and yours one third less. I was not Assessor or I would have try'd
to prevent that, by making an effort to keep the village property from
being assessed at one third ~~what~~ its worth, when the country was at half its
worth. The village was assessed so low that the Supervisors when they
met put 60,000 to the total of the Annual assessment that was put
on the whole township when it is justice it ought to have been put on
the village. One of the partners of Mill has sold his right to a Mr
Converse J. Gorland of Ann Arbor village. He is a Merchant, and drive
the coopersing pretty strong, and now he is going into the Mill business
He gives Mr Ails \$500. Mr Ails is to be foreman of the hands un-
til the job is done. Ails price is \$2.50 pr day and board. He will get 3.00
and probably more on this arrangement. So he gets the job and some \$100
to boot. Mr Rogers thinks that it will cost them more than they estimated
some 3 or 40 dollars. Our part of the work has taken as long again as I ex-
pected. We have agreed that they shall insure \$1000 for us and 1000 for them
the first year. The second year our insurance is to be \$1250 and theirs \$750 &c
We think of insuring \$500 on our own acct. \$25 pr year is the cost on \$2000
that is what has to be paid for for insuring \$2000. We are all well, &
Robert and his family are well. The Presbyterians of Ypsilanti had three
deaths amongst them last year. Two of them had Consumption. We have
lost one this year already she died of Consumption. Farewell
To William Leddes John Leddes

~~50~~
~~4.00~~
~~14.1~~
~~68~~
~~57~~
~~14.50~~
~~59.2.62~~
197.62
136
53.78

~~50~~
~~4.00~~
~~4.12.1/2~~
~~3.82.1/2~~
~~19~~
~~58.66.1/2~~
~~18.66.1/2~~
~~40.66~~
~~12.52~~
53.78

29.6 1/2

174
 1.45
 1.00
 .90
8.70
12.82

 1.81 1/2
 16
 00
 75
 2.1/2

1844

25 12.1/2

8.70
 50 14.50

Adventure 3 3/4
 Mileage 16 m. 48
 Hiring Warrant 25
 Percentage 1.25
 Mileage 16 .48
 Old R of fare 75
 Bivies 3.83 1/2



William Geddes Esq
 Cambelltown
 Lebanon County
 Pa.

1844

75

52.81
 52.61
 593

14.422
 55.0368
 893361
 288908
 91.3944

6.31
 6.11
12.48
8.52
18.00

 4.29
 103.87 1/2
 12.62 1/2
 8.07
 6.64
 4.08
139.29 1/2
8.57
 147.86