

Washburn, September 13<sup>th</sup> 1831.

Dear Brother

Two days after I wrote to you Parsons call<sup>d</sup> on me and said that there was a mistake in the time he was to receive some money: that I was the nineteenth instead of the ninth, of June. and that he would certainly take the land; He gave me notice to call on the 29<sup>th</sup> of June and he would pay me. I called and found him very unwilling to pay more than Twenty five dollars interest but after talking about it and other matters for about an hour he agreed to allow 29 but not until after I had wrote a note for the perfect money agreeably to his directions. He pretended I <sup>was</sup> very hard on him, and that if you were here yourself you would willingly take <sup>the</sup> ~~but~~ twenty five &c.

He paid one hundred dollars in cash, and two promissory notes Joint and several of Fifty each; in the one his Uncle is his bail, in the other his father ~~and another man;~~ twenty nine dollars I did not <sup>take</sup> any bail for what they are all good enough to be paid eighteen months after date. The reason I took three notes instead of one was to bring them within the jurisdiction of a Justice of the Peace, if they should have to be collected in law which is not probable will have to be the case. I make it a rule of late to take notes less than one hundred dollars where the amount is one hundred, or over. I have never had but two notes over one hundred: one I think I should have collected before this time if it had been in two. But its fate has been such that I believe I shall get it without that trouble. I have lost nothing yet in lending money but I have sometimes thought some of it was in danger. I don't consider much or any so at present.

Robert and ~~me~~ have bought Mr Ewers farm. Which will afford a very good pretext to collect in ~~what is owing due~~. There are ~~many~~ <sup>some</sup> of them think you are not under the necessity of having some money: there can be none got from them: without suing them: which is a course of proceeding no one wishes to adopt. I have sued two persons since I have been in Michigan. I made use of your hundred dollars when we bought Ewers' farm not having but eighty of my own at that time gave a note payable in six months with interest from date for the rest. There is that confounded difficulty in money here that it cannot be commanded when it is wanted.

We are to give Mr Ewers Six hundred and fifty dollars, for his farm there is 295 acres according to the original survey: it adjoins Robert's land <sup>on the west</sup> and the Huron on the North; We think it well worth the money or we should not have bought it. The reason why Mr Ewers wished to sell is that he thinks he can do better ~~about~~ without this money about Detroit. And he had a poor tenant on his farm. (his Brother Dilloson Ewers) whom he cradled to Michigan he having once failed in New York and was harassed by his creditors. Alvah thought if he came here he would be clear of that trouble and might make a tolerable living. But he is so devoted to Bacchus as to unfit him for the more important business of providing for himself and family. Alvah found him two yoke of cattle and two or three cows to keep on the farm; and received little or nothing for rent: he became heartily tired of that; which increased his wish to sell. Dilloson made but little improvement broke up little land. Alvah thought he must build a barn if he kept his farm: but these things were going: he thought on the whole it was better to sell. I will give you a specimen of Dilloson. Alvah left one yoke of Oxen for us to sell. I sold them to a man for sixty dollars, and went to give possession, when Dilloson would not let them go. pretending that he had a written permit (which he did not shew) to hold them until he had his grain and hay in: his grain was nearly all stacked then, and he had ten tons of hay to stack. He pretended that it was too much for one yoke to ~~haul~~ haul the hay on a sled if he had a waggon he might do with one yoke &c.

Alvah having agreed to leave him one yoke through the winter to go to mill and haul up his fire-wood. Alvah offered to give him five dollars if he would willingly agree that both yoke to be sold this fall. But ~~max~~ he could not do any way in the world without a yoke of Oxen. He acts as if he had a right, as if Alvah was bound to accommodate him. I am provoked at him and think him the most impudent beggar I ever had to deal with. He must leave where he now lives next spring. We have had to allow him to cut hay for his and Alvah's cattle though there was no proviso for him in the bargain with Alvah. We could have got the hay cut and stacked and had the two fifths <sup>of the price</sup> but he must be accommodated.

I agreed to pay the tax on that Parsons lot which amounted to 2.30 road and bounty tax it was more than I expected when I agreed pay it. They say that land is going to be sold this year for road tax, or I would not have paid the road tax.

M<sup>r</sup> Ewers, bought a lot in the City of Detroit with 200 dollars of the money he received for Janet land on which he intends to build a house and rent it this is all the real estate he owned in the City of Detroit when I saw him last which was about the 20<sup>th</sup> of July when we purchased from him. He owns 320 acres <sup>of land</sup> ~~acres~~ from Detroit which he values at five dollars per acre. There is a small house and some other improvement on it. The house he lives in and Cooper shop him and his partner have visited. I heard M<sup>r</sup> Ewers say his partner talked of selling out to him, he said he would give him five hundred dollars for his undivided half. I suppose that M<sup>r</sup> Ewers must be worth 3000 dollars at least he is certainly making money now. They had eleven hands at work in their <sup>shop</sup> in July, when the business becomes poor he intends to quit it and move on his farm four miles from Detroit. M<sup>r</sup> Alvah Ewers is a sober steady man and calculates to keep out of debt; pay his way as he goes. The land that Ewers own near Detroit lies half a mile on the Chicago road.

What people generally exact for loaning money is difficult to tell. M<sup>r</sup> Ewers told me that Dwight (his partner) received twelve per cent for 100.00 dollars of a Merchant in Detroit, and that he had a note with endorsers on the Bank and that note accepted at the Bank: so that he could command his money at any time. There is but little money lent in Washburn, what is, is generally at seven per cent: its all I get. some offer me more, generally double; from them I am generally content if I get my own with simple interest.

I do consider it more profitable to buy land and pay taxes than to loan money if we had not bought this land of Ewers. I did intend to buy some wild land Moe, and we has entered into a written contract for 118 acres I owned in sec. 5 Township 2 South of Range six East. he is to pay me 300 dollars on the 11<sup>th</sup> of July next with interest. we are each under fifty dollars penalty for non performance. We had, or rather Robert had some difficulty with about one third of his wheat on account of the rain. he onbanded it and spread it out to dry. I did not grow much as the weather was cool for the time of year, it was only about the middle of the sheaf it did grow, the rest he got in without any damage. The Oats was sanded and hard to cut was all the damage it sustained. We have had bad hay weather this summer: though but little hay lost. Robert had good weather for the season when he made hay, though it rained. Has made twenty three tons of Marsh hay and five or six of Timothy. I did not mow a clip this season, not having time to but little else. I sawed 89 logs in May, 94 in June 103 in July, 105 in August, number of feet year half belongs to us. throw off 10,000 for the Bridge, our own use I will leave 65,000 feet at 5. for thousand in 325 dollars. 325 dollars will pay the hire and repairs which will leave 200 as the profit of the sawmill: it is more profitable this year than the two preceding years. the hay is better: we get, and are to get considerable money, and store pay at cash price

This is called a healthy season in Waskitauw. we have been in good health since my last to you, except that Lina has had the ague; and Jane (the babe) the whooping cough, my health has been good this summer, very good. Jane (Mrs Ewers) has not been very well this summer, has had a pain in her side and a cough, she was better when Mr Ewers was out here. She does her house work not withstanding.

If you should come to Michigan this fall, or next spring I expect it would be as well to bring Soabel along with you. she can pass her time here or in Detroit or to places as she may like best. I expect Soabel may as well come now as another time Michigan must be eventually be her home. Our folks are more unwilling to leave home than the girls, or you would not be there now. I know it requires an effort to leave home from my own experience. I could have contented myself very well at home sivaling the Dutch raising wheat my ambition would if not satisfied not repined at my lot. I am now in Michigan and pleased with the country I do not desire to return nor consider it a mighty privilege to reside in the land of that of me birth. Still I would be very well pleased to go home and see our folks if I could, or when I can make it convenient. It would have had the ague this summer I would likely have come home this fall, but I have not time now, having too much business to attend to when my health is good, We will have a Yankee barn to build on Ewers farm next spring and in winter is the time to haul the timber for it it wont cost me much if I am here to attend to it my time would be money in this case.

You have not told me how you mean to come; the stage is an expensive way, it cost Jane and me 54 dollars to come from home to Waskitauw. and I walk from Meadville to Erie, and from Detroit here, If you should come this fall you will, Mr Ewers about two squares below the Yankee Boarding house near the bank of the river. I believe a street coming down the river ends or turns at the building. The divide in spring. it is certainly high time for you to leave home and look out for yourself. Wheat was but tolerable this harvest, considerable shrank in the berry. The oats was good; Corn is stout but green; no frost yet; Potatoes good, A great many cranberries red Plumbs, chicken grapes, and Walnuts, this fall. Wheat is 75. Oats 37 1/2. Wages for

ling. 1.25 per day, raking and binding 75. Mowing and making hay 75. The Masonic Candidate Austin E. Wing is elected the Delegate to Congress. He had between 2000 & 2100 votes. Dexter 1388, and Williams between 1000 & 1100. In Oakland Dexter had more votes than any of the rest. The Enquirer did not publish the whole returns it proclaimed that the Detroit Journal did not make a fair statement. I believe Dexter did not have an equal vote west of Lake Michigan. They Anti-masons claim seven out of the thirteen members of the Legislative Council. About one week after the appointment of Gov. Cass as secretary of War was announced in Detroit. the appointment of Stevens Thomson Mason, was likewise announced as Secretary of Michigan. (he will be twenty years of age in Oct. next. The Secretary is the Gov. when the Gov. is not in the Territory) There was a general burst of indignation of all parties against the appointment of a boy; to be our Gov. as we had no other than. A remonstrance was got up directly and sent on to the President. The boy said the President was aware of his being under 21 years of age when he appointed him. The appointment has injured Jackson's popularity here but we have no vote nor power different on our hands. George B. Porter of Lancaster is appointed our Gov. I presume he is opposed to Political Antimasonry. If he takes that position he will have a majority in the Council to oppose him. Governor has a right to make nominations to the Council. They have the power to reject the Gov. can fill vacancies when the Council is not in session. I believe that Paley does not consider a moralist bound in duty to vote for a freemason however amiable he may be. If he believes that he (the freemason) supports with his influence an institution at variance with the principles of Morality. Put one worst construction you can on importing, can only say I support a bad man a good object. you support a good man in a bad object. The question then is ought the person or the object govern our votes. It is certainly desirable that both the person and the object should be virtuous.

We had a light frost this morning Thermometer 46°. I have attended to the sale of land for tax, to day and half bought 500 acres for 27.29 whether I shall make any thing or I shall try it for the first time. If you wish to have any share you can have and under half of the loss and profit. No more farewell.

Williams Geddes  
John Geddes

1831

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Mr William Geddes  
Camp Belknap  
Sebastian County  
Pa.