

Washitenaw, March 10th 1832

Dear Brother,

I made you out a letter and seal, it a week ago, and not having time to take it to the Post office nor finding a convenient person to send it with I concluded to open that one; and copy it off and send you this. Your letter arrived in Ypsilanti the 17th of February, which was later than I expected. I really thought it had miscarried, for I did not expect you were crowded with business; but was glad to hear differently, thinking you were making it profitable, as is generally the case. Though it seems William the Printer notwithstanding all his business makes nothing. The man is to blame you and me do yet agree in one thing, that William was not born to be rich. He is certainly an extravagant fellow; what more does any person want than plenty to do in his line of business to make it profitable. It is quite a task to fill three sides of a sheet of paper. I very well know. I think you need not be so cautious in speaking or writing your opinion on prominent political subjects, especially since you receive considerable news of that kind. And again especially as you are such a moderate politician, and consequently not carried away by the heat of party which so wholly absorbs the spirit of charity, and encline us to believe and approve of measures at variance with the sober dictates of reason, for instance "but posting a bad man for a good purpose". It appears to me you have strained the point relative to that expression I wished to convey the idea that the worst construction that could be put on my voting was that I voted for bad man for a good purpose at the same time believing we had good men (though there was a deficiency of prominent men) as the freemasons and Jacks were the aristocracy of Washitenaw, and hoped the would be brought forward. You must know that there is a great deal of intrigue in politics, and men are often forced forward by their friends that are not the most worthy, especially in the stronger party; that that has been the case in Pennsylvania for the last twenty years, for the highest post in the state is a well known fact. If it cannot be remedied there why do you think it such a dreadful inconsistency here. The same delegate system of nomination is practiced here that you have there. Why party make a nomination, the same party support it. That the Masons have worthy men I do not dispute and at a time when they are struggling for the existence of the institution, and their own political standing, that they should bring forward their noblest is natural. It is what is done at all times in similar cases; it is as it were the reserve of battle; their only hope, their last, mightiest and expiring effort to pursue any other course would be the height of folly and madness; that many might on such an occasion should recoil at the change, is certainly to be expected though deplored. But you must not expect John to waver not withstanding I may hear of "a bad man and a good cause" on every wind that blows. No sir my vote, my efforts are against the existence of such a Society as that of Freemasonry. Antimasonry is the polar star of my political sentiments. Measures not men is my motto. You must have heard of the rejection of Van Buren's nomination, that only regard with his thousand shifts is overreached at last. You might have handed out your opinion of it. I think he received the due reward of his deeds, or that he was treated as he deserves. It appears to me you are a strong Jacksonian however you may display your moderation on Antimasonry you can overlook his errors if you do stumble at those of Antimasonry. You know that Jackson has taken part with the most rotten hearted part of the first cabinet and drove off the most worthy. He has carried on a system of proscription, but little excused by the Antimasons, not withstanding the difference of the object. It is pretended here he will not send the nomination of our boy Secretary to the Senate. But keep him in office at his own request. So that the fair candid course that you admire so much in Jackson you will probably say is most ~~perfect~~ but every thing considered you consider him the most suitable. I consider the object and expediency of Political Antimasonry to be the destruction of the Society of Freemasons. Which is a curse to the country. It is the influence of Political Antimasonry that has checked that monopolizing Society. It is that alone that can crush it. Where it is not felt Masonry is still making its giant strides. It cannot be denied that William Wirt is man whose character public and private, exceeds that of your mighty chieftain. He commands the respect of men of all parties. What is the reason he is not the choice of Moderate politicians, is it not because they are opposed to the principle that brought him forward. The man is above reproach. As for Jackson's administration, I can tell you some of its faults. How different has been his conduct to the Indians, from that of our great proprietor William Penn Annan of whom every Pennsylvanian feels proud of. And proud too of his liberal and noble conduct to the native sons of the forest. Will not the curses of generations yet unborn be hurled at Jackson and his supporters, for the treatment that had been dealt out to the helpless Indians of the South. And in this land of liberty and freedom, have not men been thrust into prison, tried and condemned, for what doest you know, must I tell you, well sir, because they would not aid in driving from their homes, and the homes of their fathers, those who are without power to talk things

called upon their Great father (Jackson) he thrust them from him they will not retire from their much loved country. So eagerly coveted we will call preaching. It is the truth. When Antimasons pursue such a course upon those who are unable to resist. I will listen to preaching then too of Porter our Governor has been confirmed by the Senate. It is yet to be he will pursue in Michigan. Our boy governor met Mr Corselius the Emigrant in Detroit and on enquiring of him if he was the person in that article that appeared in the Emigrant some time since, on his answer he (the boy) struck him with his hands in face. Who not being a man to turn the rude compliment. Mr Corselius is quite a harmless man considerable and quite inoffensive. In the hottest fury of party strife in Wachusetta no one thought of taking offence at him. Dexter who is the senior editor of the paper, and raised his pen, and not satisfied with that. Has went to Detroit. The secretary is a Kentuckian. I hear that Schuttz is set up for Governor. And that the Jackson party is divided. I would be pleased to see some of your papers. You have not told us what paper it is. But if one can tell of political principles. I would judge it is the Globe.

Letter from Uncle James dated January 15th. They were all well. George about amount before. I dont think that Uncle was offended at any of you. We dont have too great an opinion of the patriotism of our cause to take subject a person is not easily offended. As it is all in the family I will say on the subject in his letter. As I was on my way to nominate a candidate supported by the Antimasons and as your Father is such an enemy to the "handmaid" these circumstances produced some considerable alloy to my at his house. Indeed (although he was to see my face no more) I was to believe suspect my departure was as pleasing as my arrival. Here the 23rd of Feb. Maria's sister, Lina to a Mr Lyon. They are both the ceremony was performed, by a Methodist minister. The young folks had were invited in which made considerable of a party. But they were being ignorant of the way to enjoy themselves. I endeavored to encourage young people meet in numbers so seldom in the country. that they in those things in which women excelled and in which I have not improved. If I wish to come acquainted after introduction (if that is necessary) I attend the Yankee girls are famed for words and endeavor to draw conclusions from what he sees and hears. These romping plays I take little or no pleasure in. My delectating sensation at kissing every one that comes up as to abandon the practice here play whist a game at cards, when I first noticed it. I thought it was not long until I took hold and learnt to play a good hand. But as I am I have quit playing. Uncle James in the letter I received from him information it high time for me to lay aside being Bachelor any longer. Pretends my a serious one. In my reply to him I told I would think of it. The fact is I was ever so much inclined and I am less inclined.

The sledding has been very good this winter and an abundance of it. Although some part of the time very slippery. We had two draws that took the sledding, and backwatered the mill. The saw mills on the Huron have all been backwatered this winter half the time it frustrated my calculations some for I could not saw nothing like as fast as the soft timber was brought in and so did not run Dix much. But damn satisfied, we have a good share of the logs that were haul'd into the sawmill this winter. We have as many as any of them. Last year we did not have half as many as the Upsilanti sawmill. Robert and me have bought the East half of the South west quarter of section 6 in Township 14 North Range 8 East containing 87 acres, for the timber that is on it and Robert has haul'd 39 logs from to the sawmill. I think I buy in me two yoke of cattle and getting a sled made and have cast shoes put on it. And have a hand pay his Board &c. And sett him to haul logs for me. I think I can make it profit a hand. The distance is 1/2 miles. A pair of cast sled shoes cost six dollars in Detroit. It is said that two yoke will draw as much as three yoke with on wooden shoes. I would should clear my team and sled. The profit depends on the time of sledding. five or six weeks will make it profitable. Sleds 9 dollars for thousand. While Ash the same. March 3rd was the last day of the sledding, the next day it rained. the Huron raised right up an snow four or five inches higher than last year. The ice went out of the pond the night of the 8th and swept out about forty feet of the bank of our head race. We think of entering four or five hands repair the breach. The dam has not been injured. It had not frightened us any. In a few days, from now and fill up hole with stones. It had not frightened us any. I do not consider it very bad. And when it is stop it will be stronger than it was before, but it is a dear way of strengthening water works. But the Upsilanti dams have both fared worse and one of them was built in the new last summer. Our Bridge has stood through the whole The ice between the pond and the bridge and Huron is only 45 rods. The rise of the Huron above to through the distance between the bridge and Huron is only 45 rods. The rise of the Huron above to water mark is set at five feet. The month of December the morning and 1st below at two o'clock the coldest day this winter 11 degrees below zero in the morning and 1st below at two o'clock. It was the coldest day in the middle of the day of any day since we had the thermometer. The 24th of Dec. 10 degrees below in the morning and 10 degrees above at two o'clock. Uncle James intends to build a large barn next summer and haul his logs to a sawmill. The saw for 1.50 per thousand. Flour is 6.90 in Ann Arbor. wheat has fell it is 87 1/2 Corn is 50 March hay in Upsilanti is 6.50 per ton. I am in hopes that Congress will appropriate some money to ward on raising the Chicago road between Ann Arbor and Detroit. It will be very very bad almost impassable. Upsilanti is improving faster than Ann Arbor at present. But the inhabitants of Ann Arbor at the most respectable and is much the best site for a great village. All the land that I purchased when sold for tax has been redeemed except a quarter section belonging to a very tall man who has two or three homes. I have not seen him since I purchased. I mean to tell him the next time I see him that if he does not pay me I will take possession and I think it would be difficult to get it. Whether he will for he is said to be low cracked and has scarcely com- pession. I dont think I will try the speculation again as it rather a poor business. The tax is in light in this Township this year he cents on eighty acres. What your tax is I dont know. as I am not attended to it yet. There is no interest on it until the first of May. I think I not my duty to avoid the subject. We ought to be wiser as serpents and harmless. It is the subject when I consider it profitable. We ought to be wiser as serpents and harmless. It is "doves" We ought not cause people to loath us and the cause so as to fly at our approach. It is but little I say to Robert on the subject. I believe he is more in opposition now than before. I have more to say about the faults of professors of the principles of Christian- ty. They have neglected the mentioned are they not a disgrace to the cause. They have neglected it. You would repent. I would rejoice at it. You are would repent. I would rejoice at it. You are no need of repentance. All I ask of I am not

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PSILANTI. MT
MAR. 10

JD

Mr William Geddes
Campbelltown
Lebanon County
Pa

1832

Ms. 10

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