

Ann Arbor, March 12th 1836

Dear Brother, We received your letter on the 7th of this month, and were pleased to see that Sawyer's concern appeared more favorable. Though he Sawyer has not made an effort yet. And may be, cannot effect anything. But I will leave it to you and your Lawyer, to manage, as you may think best: for you will do so at any rate. And Law is different there from what it is here. I think the limitation Law would destroy Sawyer's claim. You were "tickled" at my peaceable plan. And I was amused at your idea of my being so passionate. And so there ^{was} scribbling all round. You do not appear to understand the rush in to land speculation that is attempted and acted upon in this country or you would not think of staying there until the first of May. I want you to send on my share as soon after the first of April as possible. (I believe the first day of April is pay day). I want you to sell my share of the Bonds if you can. I don't see why Robert G. Graydon might not take the last Bond by allowing him ten or twelve per cent until it becomes due. It will be his interest to do so as his father will not allow him more than six per cent if that. And the Bond will be due before he is of age. It is your interest, and James, and Agrippa's interest. As well as the rest of the Michigan heirs to have their whole share this spring. We believe the opinion is well established that money is worth 25 per cent to put into Land, wild Land in Michigan or Illinois. And that is thought to be a sure and moderate calculation. As there is instances without number where more than double that has been made during the past summer and winter. And this summer they are not decads but an host going into the Land speculation. And as we here, say, every body is attempting that business. And the sooner the better: and you cannot come yourself directly after the first day of April send on James, or James, and Agrippa, with their and my share and I will assist them to buy land for their trouble of coming here. So I am determined to let out the Journill and go west as soon as possible after I hear from you. A. W. Bronson, the proprietor of the County seat of Galena, Mo (one of my old acquaintances) has a plan afloat that if it works (which is not known now) I think of going into partnership with him in taking possession of the Land at the mouth of the Wapishiracou Creek or river on the West side of the Mississippi. A little South of 42 degrees North Latitude. Thinking there may be considerable of a place there before long. It is not in market. And of course we would squat on it as we term it. Bronson is going right on in a short time to take possession if there is no one there: And if there is to buy him out if he does not ask more than \$1000. I am then if he gives me notice to go on and take his place and commence making improvement. But whether this plan will work or not: I will go west next spring as early as I can. And take a look at the Country.

But still I will not commit myself until I see the place and some of
the country round about as it may be sickly &c I shall endeavor to exercise
my ~~own~~ opinion. As it is not at all improbable it may be unhealthy
I think I can make more money and live easier ^{and have more influence} by buying and selling
land than attending Sawmill. Though Sawmilling is getting better every year
And we have now more logs in the mill yard than we ever had at one time
And the country is richer and able to pay, and lumber is a higher price ^{now}
But I think I have tugged and toiled long enough and used my physical ^{thor}
oughly. I now intend to try the mental. If I should not go into this speculation I
want to go West by the middle of April. As I have agreed to go to the General
Assembly of the Presbyterian Church. Which meets at Pittsburgh on the third
Thursday of May next. I would not think of attending this Assembly but things
have got to a crisis in the Presbyterian Church and it becomes the duty of every
friend of peace and order to be at his post in the hour of need. It is not without
sorrow that I see the peace and harmony of the Society disturbed by a few rest-
less spirits who appear to forget that Love and good will ^{is} one of the fun-
damental principles of Christianity, and Order one of Heaven's first Laws
If I should wait until the time you have set to come to Michigan (even if this Bron-
son speculation should fail) I would not have time to buy land until after I came
back from Pittsburgh, which ^{will} not be until the first day of July, or thereabout.
I want to go west with \$1000 I can raise 400 or 500 here, at least I think and hope so
I would wish to have \$600 from Pa. and want United States Bank notes.
but still you must have what I owe you out of my share. ~~What~~ ^{will} be left. As you
cannot afford to lend me money. And I don't want you too. A week ago I let a person
have \$100 to buy eighty acres. He is to take it in my name. And in one year I am to
let him have the land if he will pay me \$125 if not the land is mine. It
was his own offer. He wanted another \$100 on the same conditions. I told him I
would think of it. (But I will not now, as this Bronson idea has come up since and
I want \$1000 for that.) If you will advance me \$100 you may have this, or have you
conscientious scruples, or what. I call nonsensical scruples, when I let him have
it I really thought I could do as well if not better. But thought that was doing
well and I would accommodate him. The simple truth is the rate percent is high
but the land is cheap. And the borrowed gains between the two. This country is
rapidly filling up and land must: it is a sure investment. Our gristmill plan
must rest for the present: and I think for the capital that would have to be in-
vested it would be nothing like as profitable as land. I would like to see you
before I go to the Mississippi: but I may not go as it is all uncertain. And if see
a good chance to lay out money I will inform you. I am still single and under
no engagements of the kind. I am a free man. It seems you are married if you are
sued: I am. I know nothing about your dearly beloved, though I have been more
than a thousand times in Pakenyza.

We had one week of very good sledding in February and some middling sledding; snow never more than a foot: that went off and we have had some more there is about six inches now. Winter still hangs on: Yesterday in the morning 3 degrees above zero and 12 above at noon. This morning 4° below zero. The coldest morning I ever knew in March. It is now 11° black and is 18° above. A cold day. I rejoice with all good friends of the United States ^{Bank} in its recharter. Now Ritner is coming on you have not told me: nor what the prospect of the States going for Gen. Harrison. I have heard that Ritner has not give the satisfaction expected. I did not think much of Harrison, Denny and his associates in their opposition to Harrison. They carried their Intemperance too far. I am fully persuaded in my mind that the party that elected Ritner cannot be sustained without supporting Harrison. Its their only hope. And by giving him their cordial and undivided vote. The Van Buren party must be routed. Wheat is \$1.00 per Bushel. Oats 37½. The Railroad is established that is surveyed and the route determined on as far as the 27 mile stake 22 miles East of Ypsilanti. Where it is to strike the Huron is not settled yet. And whether it will come up the river or go South of it to Ann Arbor is not decided. Every string will be drawn by some individuals in Ann Arbor village, to draw it from the river for selfish purposes. I am of the opinion it ^{will} go up the river notwithstanding all their efforts. As to where it ought to go. And where disinterested persons think and say it ought to be made. This is a rascally world or rather the people in it and the more I get acquainted the worse I think of it. Its in a country like this where so many are on the lookout for speculation that this depravity of the human heart is so clearly to be seen. Brownson tells me that the Land office there has been taking for some time back \$10,000 a week. "What will it be in May, and June?" Because we think this country will be over run after navigation is fairly opened. The United States Bank will help to keep money plenty some two or three years yet. I want you to be on the before this high tide of emigration commences. And if I fail its not because I have not give notice. Our health is as when I last wrote to you. Property is rising in this country. I have had no offer for your land this winter it will probably sell next summer. I want you to see that the Philadelphian is paid until the end next year. I have not seen myself credited in the Philadelphian for some time. It is true I have had a few tokens I might have been credited in them. But I want if you can conveniently ascertain how our accounts stand. On counting up to day I think there is a good prospect of my missing \$500 here and so as much more from home will do: but still if you can bring my shares the two thirds to Michigan this spring I should, I would be pleased. If I was to attend the court this year I could have my present accounts all settled up and make those pay me that I for this year do that I think I could raise \$1000 without any help from Pa. But all the best chances would be bought up in that time. And emigrants dont wait until land is in market but take possession of their own accord and they cannot be disposed afterwards. This Brownson plan the more I think of it the less I think of it. And I shall be cautious. But still I think money can be made in the land speculation and I mean to try it and the sooner I go into it the better. I want you on the receipt of this to let me know what you will do, and forth with. As time flies and Spring will soon be here. If you cannot raise nor get any one to come or dont get the money for father farm let me know by letter direct to Ypsilanti. I shall expect some news from you by the 15th of April. I have not seen Lane since the first of January nothing more. Farewell

W. W. Williams & Co.

John Geddes

Mr. Gray

621
324
297

~~Wm. Geddes~~
Orlando

804.36
36
480
Rougemachen

13404
9806
3604
4000

1400
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13404
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245.115
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1215
27.50
6.87 1/2
3.43 1/2
1.71 1/2

Ann Arbor report of Knowledge
M. C. Knowledge
1836

Knowledge
Knowledge

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David
Dasher

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13.45

55.1836
292.32
139.24
432.36

84.47
55.47
139.94

57.73
560.65
109.63

16.892
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3.652

39.2211
46.441
139.94

28
556
572

21
179 1/2
98 1/2

Wm. Geddes
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Wm. Geddes

Christy Thomas M. Geddes
Robert G. Grayson

Ogrippe Geddes
Wm. Geddes

Danphin County
Wm. Geddes

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