

Palmira July 22<sup>nd</sup> 1836

Dear Brother

Your letter to Agrippa was received yesterday  
in his absence to Philadelphia when he is arranging your money matter  
and will probably return tomorrow. I arrived home on the fourth of  
this month making the trip in 30 days and that over roads the  
most tremendous I ever witnessed. It rained nearly every day of the  
trip. The rain in Michigan was so great that it was next  
to impossible to get any. The door of the land office at Detroit  
was crowded every day so much that it was hard to get near  
it. There was also in the Detroit office in June \$16,000 better  
than \$15,000 per day. In hundreds of instances men have paid the  
clerk of the land office for plots of townships and when he  
had travelled 50 or 100 miles and examined the lots marked  
not taken and returned to enter such as pleased him found he  
was too late that some one was ahead - in some cases they had  
failed 3 or 4 times. John and I made a trip to see if we could  
find any to please us and had plots of 4 townships but it  
rained so much that we could not trace lines through  
the wet bushes and grass and at last the streams became  
so swollen that with difficulty we crossed them on our  
return to Robert. We would have purchased 800 or 1000  
acres if we could have found it to please us, but owing to the  
rains having made it if not impossible very disagreeable  
to look land for two or three weeks to come and the great  
rush for land making it a considerable trouble even when  
the weather was suitable I concluded to return home.  
The southern land office in Michigan was closed the  
whole time I was there and was not be opened to in  
this month on account of the officers not being able to  
attend business. If John finds land to suit us it is well but  
if not I will be in Illinois and Missouri in the fall.  
There is now going to be more difficulty in purchasing land  
as the President has issued orders that nothing but land

Money must be received after the 15<sup>th</sup> day of August next from  
 nonresidents and that for only 320 acres — for those that  
 reside in the state or territory where they purchase the same  
 kind of money as was paid all along will be received  
 to the 15<sup>th</sup> of December next when they must also pay land  
 money. I believe I offered James \$200 for his share of what is to be in  
 the land to the death of Mother when he was here but he declined  
 taking it and now it will not be so handy fixing its value. I pur-  
 chase that he will then have no further claim on the estate and  
 ought to send me a release in full. I did not urge him because  
 he ought to have known himself that \$200 at present was worth  
 more to him than the 9<sup>th</sup> of April 18. God only knows when = \$496.44  
 allowing me nothing for the trouble of collecting and paying it  
 over. If Witney and I should both live and he would pay it  
 to me on the day appointed then my charges would be trifling  
 but if it should turn as many other cases and especially as that  
 of collecting the \$1600 of the heirs of Michael Hack for his  
 estate the charges might be something considerable. But if I  
 have no trouble as <sup>to</sup> that I will not there is none of you would object to  
 allowing me the \$6.46 of each share which would leave \$190 that  
 at 50 <sup>discount</sup> pr. cent. = \$45 a sum I would not like to give for <sup>in</sup> one year time  
 I should consider it worth the \$190 in almost any situation in  
 western land and James if he had insisted on my giving him  
 \$200 I would have done it and he might have realized the  
 whole sum out of it by the time this letter reaches him if  
 fortune would have favored and by the end of 10 or 12 years  
 it may be that it would have increased to \$1000 instead  
 of \$450. I would not buy any of the shares of those thirds were it  
 not that I do not wish to have any stranger to have any claim  
 on fathers estate or me but if you and Agrippa will insist on selling  
 I will give \$200 each and pay next spring. As soon as James sends me  
 a release in full of the whole estate including widows third in  
~~the~~ the land I will send him a draft on any Bank he wishes  
<sup>you must</sup> to get the release made out by a good Clerk or attorney and  
 acknowledged before a Notary Public or judge of the Court.

I would prefer a Notary. All that the writer of the release must know about father is where he lived and died and when he made his will as well as who was appointed executors; all of which James can tell him. Father made his will on the 13<sup>th</sup> of June 1832. Each child was to have an equal share after the payment of debts and special legacies. A release is good in Pennsylvania if its in full without mentioning any sum or what sum was paid but if the sum is mentioned you must add the \$100 already paid to the \$196.46 to be paid at the decease of mother as the \$200 I now give is to be considered as good as the \$196.46 or the present worth of it. Whitney will not make 3 per cent on the farm this year. You behaved very ill in not calling to see brother in Pittsburg. he was not pleased and it would certainly seem very strange to Mr. Sharon who informed him that he had saw you on your way to them and if I recollect right as he do John if he had done. Certainly a son of one's father is worth calling to see and not know him and he were but half a brother -

You have seen him by calling when the Assembly met and inquiring of Mr. Sharon. You can inform Mrs. Sawyer that her relations are all well but her Aunt Betsy Wolfsberger who is complaining and has lost half the speech she used to carry. Mrs. Earley had a son Monday evening last. Mrs. Grittinger had one about the 1<sup>st</sup> inst. Mrs. Hawkey had one also a few days ago. Mrs. Wolfsberger is noway confined but only feels somewhat ill and loses her flesh slowly.

Julia Glendinning increased her family sometime in the spring by raising a daughter I believe - not sure - son or daughter. Washington Moore's wife has also done something in that way. Berryhill Bell came home a few days before me. He bought a house and lot in this town for \$1800 on which he paid \$500 and from what I can learn is sick of his bargain. He had a fight with Peter his bound boy and a Captain of a Canal boat and got whipt he put the boy to jail and had the Captain bound over to answer count for assault and battery. From what I can learn he tied the boy and then beat him which the Captain would not suffer when they had <sup>it</sup> and <sup>the</sup> boy was rather short at one end,

Mr Graydon did not pay Agrippa what you lent him but I advanced it. When he called one of his children was sick and he got little satisfaction out him. Wheat is selling at \$1.62 per bushel. The crops of Wheat and Rye are both very very little worth but the Oats is good and Corn so far very promising. All well. Hanwell

Mr Thomas Geddes

William Geddes

25

Nov 10

Mr Thomas Geddes  
Decatur  
Illinois

Palmyra  
July 22.  
1836

In the absence of  
Thomas Geddes the  
Post master will give  
this letter to James Geddes  
who may open it.