

Palmyra July 17th 1837

Dear Brother Yours of the 1st inst was rec'd. on Saturday last. I also rec'd. that powers of Attorney from Robert but as yet have not acted on it: nor indeed can to August Court. Grandmother died in Da-phian County at Allen^o which I thought you all knew and John Sawyer took out letters of administration in that county and that powers of attorney says Jane Sawyer of Lebanon county: which affect may destroy it: and may not. I will have that point decided on next Court and if it will not answer it will be time enough to have a new one at the November Court as I cannot force his executors to the point until a year after his death. I had entered upon my appeal to the Supreme Court of May and June last and was ready and gave my attorney strict orders to force it to a trial: which he writes me has endeavored to do and would have succeeded but for Sawyer's death which gives his executors one years time: which they have taken the benefit of and put it off to another year. My attorney says he tried his best to persuade the attorney of Sawyer to waive the year privily and try the cause by mutual consent but they refused and I must submit to the delay. He says he calculate to force me to a compromise by delays as he allows they have a poor opinion of their cause. Mr Sawyer took his bed in February as soon as he arrived from trying our cause and continued confined to the 5th of May when he died after a long and painful illness with the asthma. He suffered severely with his dry cough and could not lie in bed but had to sit up in it to prevent suffocation until the skin was worn from the flesh of his skeleton from. He was annoyed very much with his sufferings and I am told

gave the lawyers a blessing occasionally. He ordered it is said his remains to be buried in Lebanon or Cambellstown not wishing to lie in Derry Gravyard with his enemies. but his friends hosted his children out of complying with his orders in that respect and buried him in Hanover one of the youngest told me at the burial that he often heard him say that he would not be buried in Derry amongst his enemies but never thought he was in earnest and was quite astonished as was the whole neighborhood at his late orders and his children carrying them out. On account of our recent contest I did not visit him during his sickness but Annals have had the requested it. I attended at his funeral at the house his wife now goes to Hanover with them not considering myself bound to be left out of my way. Of their or his folly in carrying out this spite to his relations after his death. He was very much opposed to dying and still flattered himself and friends that he would recover till within a few weeks of his death. When he was prevailed upon to make his will which from the state of his mind he was not capable of doing as it ought to be done. He appointed his son Samuel and daughter Ann his executors with orders to sell his farm here as soon as possible as well as his personal property that is left after his widow has taken due care to furnish as well as two cows and all the provisions which is in his house at the time of his death with some other household stuff. The is to move on his mountain land next spring and have the income of it all her life and keep some of the younger children but not pay for their education that having to come out of his other estate. Provided that the farm here has to pay his debts and his sons each \$100 and daughters each \$100 when they severally arrive at the age of twenty two years. which if it does not pay off so much of his Mountain debts is to be sold to make up the deficiency and always nothing how the widow is to live if it should require the whole. The widow is quite distressed and says she will not move among the mountains. The death of Thomas came as unexpected to me as to you. He was married in the first week of March and was in better health and spirits than I ever knew him to be. He frequently complained of ill health while he was at home in father's lifetime and would not work and when father died he went to Harrisburg to Grayson's where his health did not improve but was rather worse. In Philadelphia he recruited a little and in his trip to the west in 1836 he apparently came on quite healthy on a bid fair when he left this to live and when the news arrived of his death I could scarce believe it although the information came from an undoubted source. He and Agrippa purchased two horses and a wagon in which with Thomas wife and some necessary movables they intended moving in to the state of Illinois and left this in the last week of March with their mother for Newville intending to stay there with them until the middle of April which it appears they did. Thomas' father law and family save Thomas wife who stayed at Newville with him and Agrippa moved out within one mile of Pittsburg the first of April when Thomas also expected to make a short stay on his way west and recruit if necessary which it appears he greatly needed but could not effect the unrelenting tyrant death during too hard on him. Agrippa wrote or perhaps some of her friends back to Newville of Thomas' fate and a neighbor wrote to me stating that he died on the 6th May at his father's hands of a typhus fever after an illness of two weeks. I received a letter a few days ago from Agrippa from Decatur Illinois dated June 13th where he had died the 30th day himself Thomas having died at Pittsburg on the 29th of April. He says that while they were at Newville Thomas hired a black in which he hitched his horses intending with his wife to visit some of her relations and while he was driving to the house the horses broke and the horses ran off and upset the vehicle and put one bone of Thomas elbow out and but slightly injured him otherwise. His arm became very sore but was better when he went in raw cold wet

Weather and took cold in it when he was attack'd with a chile and
fever and was unwell sometime but not seriously and left Newville
for his father in law before he was quite well and the weather proving
wet and cold during the whole time he again became indisposed
and when he arrived at his fathers he was scarcely able to walk in
to the house and had to take his bed from which he never rose. His
wife's Brother and a man of the name of Heron administered ^{on} his
estate and the wife took the moneys and Thomas' share of 76 dollars
and wagon at the appraisement and Agrippa took them from her
and paid for them and departed alone for Illinois leaving the widow
with his father where ~~it~~ it appears he has arrived without further
loss or accident. James is there and well but he does not say what he
is doing or what he intends to do. Agrippa says he likes the appear-
ance of the country, but says nothing about the appearance of the crops.
The crops in this country have improved very much and there will without
some further misfortune ^{be} a two thirds crop of Wheat & Rye.
The summer crops never look better. Prices are wheat 25c per bu. Rye
60c Corn .75 Cots .50 Potatoes 3 1/4 Buckwheat 60c Peas Seven
cents with 75c very hard so much so that small notes of from
five cents to 3 1/2 are now in circulation - issued by the incorporated
Cities and Boroughs to supply the place of specie now withheld by all
the Banks in the Union. The poor Jacksonian have hid their heads with
shame you forgot to mention what that man was willing to give for my
cause but it is very little difference as I mean to wait awhile before I sell
it and see if that railroad will not do something towards enabling my
present offer as I would as soon have 260 acres within 35 miles of St. Louis
as within five if there was a good railroad. Don't tell the folks.
not for sale for money enough ought and will buy almost any terms to
my opinion that land will be worth 20 per acre shortly in your neighborhood
if the grain keeps up to half the present prices. If I was on the frontier of
the United States ^{Bank} paper it is likely you might
agree but as it is it will have to rest a little longer: unless he should
make such an offer as would bring me to the spot - say \$3000. I can com-
mand \$700 and if I can procure United States paper I will appear
about the middle of September and see what can be done. My wife
had a son on the 26th May who continues to thrive and intend calling him Robert
Ann Johnson had another still born child the 1st of May - it was also
a son. She is again well. Of Cousin John's health I know nothing now
any of the rest in Newville as Mr. Johnson in his letters said nothing about
them. Mr. Graydon and family are well and I have heard no more of
Robert going to College. Young Samuel Harper wife a few weeks ago
had a son and a daughter at a birth. The reason of my not writing of
Thomas' death was that bad news always arrives soon enough. I sent William
the printer to-day \$2.50 for his paper for you by the hands of John Early
Mr. John who started for the City to buy goods. He keeps store when Larder
kept in this town. We have had a very wet cool spring and very bad hay
weather to this day week but since the finest imaginable. There was some
Rye cut Friday last and Saturday. The wheat will hardly be ripe next
week owing to its promising to give nothing until it was forced on by the cop-
ious rains and cool weather of June which was quite unexpected and
now makes it so late, wages 75 per day. Learned between 6 and 7 dollars in hay
making and stood it quite well. Would there be any chance of getting a
house to live in if I was to appear in Michigan without notice. I was fortunate in
getting Thomas' release in full before he left this. His widow will get the one
half of his personal ^{estate} absolutely and the half of the real during life and his mother
the other half of both in the same way according to the law of this state which
you will find in one of my old letters of 1834 or 1835. His personal amounted to \$270.
He having squandered a great deal away these five years past since father's death.

I have received no letters from Uncle James since I was in Michigan nor from any of our relations otherwheres. The rail road to Chambersburg from Philadelphia is completed all but two miles in which there is a tunnel and it is pushing through to Chambersburg. The income of our Canal is near \$60,000 so far this year in spite of the hard times. It is said the receipts on New York Canals have fallen back very much from last year. The moving west through this place has been double last year. Twelve families moved out of this neighborhood. Abraham Cope Blacksmith among them number. His father is still living with his son John who owns Richard Moore's land. Jonathan lives near Hagerstown. Philip in Bedford County. Jacob Wolfersberger farms his fathers farm on the shores and old Philip is speculating in lottery tickets and a Sheep. Jack and his brother George are also dealing in Sheep. Sheep fetch from \$3 to \$5 per head.

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Pulneyard Pa
July 16th

Mr John Geddes
Wisconsin

Michigan

1837

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will do
ntains.
ried in



I will try to get Lawyer's to drop the suit now pending by showing them that it will only cost in loss and expense to both parties at a time & to the lawyers only but will pay them nothing and if they will not I will then make a dash at them about Grandmother's estate which will put them to their trouble. Miss Nancy Malone died of the Bilious Cholic on the first of June at 8 o'clock in Humpetown. Joseph McCoy wife went to bed well at 9 o'clock on a before 10 was a corpse. She was a very fat woman and it is supposed died with the Aprolexy. The Rev Mr Ghorb has his health as usual. James Clark is still living in single blessedness. All is well, Yarwell

Yours truly
John Geddes

William Geddes