

Ann Arbor, April 27th 1840

Dear _____, Later than ever but so it comes at last. My saw
miller _____ or this would have ^{been} with you now. And hard as the times are
I have plenty to do, get some money for lumber: but pay out more for logs
Sell lumber for store pay. land, and a mortgage due in two years but on its
terest. I have agreed for one eighty acre lot wild land in Livingston County
said to be a good lot. I am to give \$250 for it: Poplar Lumber at \$8.00 per thousand
and Oak at \$7.00. Bought the Poplar logs for \$4.00 per thousand and the Oak
for \$3.00 per thousand. I think I am doing well in the bargain. Only it is invest
ing our means in what we cannot turn quick. And we will want all our means
to build and finish the gristmill we have begun, but which progresses slowly
Sawmilling this year is better than farming. Grain looks well and ~~grain~~ ^{grain}
Wheat is 70 per bu. Washtenaw held its own this spring in the spring elections
In Ann Arbor the Tories blustered round considerable talk, large and made out
as good a ticket as they could but it would not do. The Whigs had 67 majority
I think there is but little doubt but Michigan will go Whig next fall by increased
majorities but it will have to be done by an effort, and great efforts are making
building log cabins and printing cheap newspapers. A new paper printed weekly
called the "Old Hero" is issuing from the press at Ann Arbor on a small scale at
50 the term or until the first Monday of November next. I take two numbers
The paper was issued the 25th instant for the first time. And it so happened I gave both
mine away the same day I received them. We intend to circulate the "Old Hero"
as much as possible. the first paper appeared well. I received the "Lebanon
Courier" the 22^d instant. And read Mr Corvins speech with pleasure. and thought
it a noble reply to our "Michigan general" who is a fair specimen of ^{the} loco loco party
in Michigan. A meaner set of scoundrels never was elevated to posts of trust and
Honor (I hope) in any other State in the Union than we have had. But few of
them are in office now, and the "Militia general of Michigan" and Novells
~~too will be permitted to retire after the 4th of March next in the shades of~~
private life. If we carry next fall: a Senator for Congress is to be elected
And then we will be all Whig. The Whig candidate for Supervisor. had 301 votes and
the Tory 234 in Ann Arbor: Myself and Criss White, were the candidates: we both live in
this school district. In Pittsfield last ^{fall} the Whigs had ²⁵ 95 votes and the Tories 12 votes
But there are more voters than 107: some went to other townships to vote. Next fall every
person must vote in the Township they reside. I will then inform you how many votes
are polled in Pittsfield. The Legislature of Michigan did not lower their pay from \$300
per day, but left it as it was. They lowered other salaries, and dispensed with some and
pretend that \$30,000 will be saved in the expenses of the State officers this year. Some
good appointments have been made and some but middling. Central Rail-Road is
finished as far as Dexter this summer. The Legislature in expending on the
the last day or days adjourned without making any appropriations for ^{interior} ^{improvements}

Michigan Legislature adjourned the 2^d of April. The granted the Bank
the first day of February next. And the Loco focos of Pa. have ^{given} ~~done~~
after all their pretended hostility to Banks. Pennsylvania is expect
for Harrison. But it may not. But notwithstanding. It is my opinion
will be elected. A Mighty effort will be made by the Tories, and it is the duty of every
Whig to consider himself as belonging to the vigilance committee and do what he honestly
can to overthrow. A desperate set of Villians who have got hold of the reins of government
and are determined carry out their destructive experiments let what will become of the
people; and the country. One or two of your neighbors here talk of breaking up and
improving some of your plain if you would be in favor of it. One hundred dollars would
build a decent ^{and} story ^{and} half house. This thing of sending on a Pennsylvania tenant
is rather a strange idea. And probably you will never attempt it. Something ought to be
done. to pay the tax off the land. And I think that an agreement might be entered
into with some one to that effect without any loss to you. For that plain of yours
might be raising grain just as well as not, and free you from all expence, except
seeing to them once and a while, and that I would do for nothing, or make the tenant pay
and that he would not do, because I would not charge a decent man any thing, and a diffi-
cult ^{fellow} ~~one~~ would not pay anything. We put a man on ~~it~~ we own a year ago for five years
but he I am told does not do as he agreed; And Robert or me must go and see him
for we are told he is selling timber off the land, which he was not allowed to do. Indeed
he was restricted from cutting a stick on all but twenty acres which he was to clear and
^{have} the use of. I fear he is a rogue. It is Wayne County about eight miles ^{from} here
Your land is nearer by. And I could see to them and the temptations would not be so
great on account of their proximity to me. If you do not sell I would recommend breaking
up that plain or part of it, as much as would pay the tax.

An elderly man (an Englishman) has been speaking to me about buying your land
He wants long payments and thinks he could not allow \$3000 for it. He did not say
what he would give, but what it was worth and pay interest yearly. He has some
boys and he thinks he could set them to work and clear up the land just as well
as not and pay for it in time. He owns I think 127 acres in Gpsilakti Township

probable three miles from your land, he has all cleared out he wants. And now does
not have work enough for his boys. He is a man, ^{that} prides himself in doing what agrees
to do. Is out of debt, or never was in debt: keeps his affairs snug and his credit good
by not promising to do what he cannot perform. He first thinks before he acts. He is called
an honest man. And I do not think would try to take advantage of you. I think if he
would give \$2500 and pay interest yearly. I doubt whether you can do better than sell
Land is not rising any in Michigan: it is falling. Two lots were sold for \$500 a lot (or eighty
acres) ~~for~~ ^{for} a half miles from here cash down. They are called good land, one mile North
and a mile West of your land. The man that offered the \$3000 for your land told me
last fall he was glad you did not accept his offer. I thought at the time he
he was foolish. He is a Jackson man and would not believe that hard times
along shortly: he is a decent man notwithstanding his tory principles, and I do
traded cheating you when he made the foolish offer: you would not accept but he ^{has} ~~no~~

still comes for the cooping. his family has not increased. one son and
two daughters is all: Lane does her own house work. her health is on the gain it
gains by the ... Is Isabel Bathurst, Robert Snodgrass' wife alive yet. and if
she is: how ~~is she~~ and how does her and Robert get along. What has become of the
great belle of Hanover Eliza M. Cornick. Dr Simonton is a member of Congress
I don't know but that you were patriotick. but I think reckless in your support of
the school law. in Londonderry. It is well enough to support the school law but it
is duty to throw yourself in the breach. certainly not. without a fair prospect of suc-
cess. no more than our duty to build a gristmill without the means. Look at the 28. 29.
30 & 31st verses of the fourteenth Chap. of Luke. There certainly is a strong feeling against any
law of the kind in Lebanon County. In a political point or view it is not your duty
in a moral view it is: if you can be successful: if you cannot it is not your duty. the
proof of these things is in being successfull. Take the temperance subject. I think
that there ought to be a fifteen gallon law passed in Michigan. but at the same ^{time} know
or think that if such a law was passed it would not be supported by a majority of my
constituents or fellow citizens is it my duty to vote for it, I trow not. I think you done
right in returning the poor children; Am I wrong in thinking you would have been
indulged in returning the poor children if you had not passed the school law
upon Londonderry. It may be I am wrong in not understanding the course you have
taken. If you have any news from Illinois or Cumberland send it on. Robert and family
are well. and so are we. Marcus Lane died of the Consumption April 7th left a
widow and two sons. We have no such a party as Anti-Masonic here, but ⁱⁿ
two thirds of the Whigs in this County are Anti-Masonic

"Old Hero"

I saw in the Lebanon Courier that John Harman was wound the Lebanon
longer than I thought he would. After sustaining himself so long a pleasure. and thought
not sail through. What has become of Davy Dasher & Fer ^{the} Dasher. I suppose I would be a stranger in Palmyra now
many times. Well I think that the time will come when we had. But feed of
the last time: and visit the home of my boyhood. but "Michigan" and Norville
years: it may be not for ten. it may never be. Fifteen years
Michigan has been my home. A country I once felt proud of: the country is well
enough: but I boast of inhabitants no more. But still I am not sorry that I
came to Michigan nor that I am here on the Banks of the Huron now
We have had a dry spring and not backward. 25th of April 87 degrees which is very
warm. 26th 40 degrees. Night of the 25th it rained and till after daylight next ^{day} a great and
soaking rain and nearly backwated the mill. The weather is not settled now. I ought
not forget to enquire how Walter Clark is. Robert has got his pump in operation
again. The State is to pay him \$108 for fixing it. If you have not made the arrangement
you need not about the North American you need not. as I am not very anxious
it. I have received none of the papers yet. A College is to be built in Ann Arbor
anner. - Farewell
John Geddes

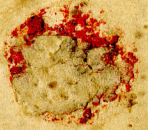
you
great on account
up that plain or the
An elderly man has
He wants long payments
what he would give
boys and he thinks he
so not and pay for it

APR 29
MICH

1840

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Mr William Geddes
Palmyra
Lebanon County
Pa.



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