

John Dow January 1829 - Eads' summer and

Their has been considerable many sick in Gladstone last fall though not so sickly as the first season we were here; in some portions of the country more sickly than others. Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti were both considered sickly Ypsilanti more so than Ann Arbor. It is the first winter that Ypsilanti was considered sickly. There is a marsh bordering on the Chicago road about 100 rods from the bank of the Huron and but a short distance from the Public square of Ypsilanti. There is probably an hundred acres in this marsh it is principally owned by Judge Lareau. This marsh lies in a certain direction from the Chicago which probably has some effect on the health of Ypsilanti. The disease in this country is generally the Fever and Ague. Fever and Remittent Fever. More cases of Fever and Ague than all the rest. The Fever & Ague consider a trifling disorder and is attended to scarcely disturbed, and as easily kept away; but notwithstanding this it has driven some pious anxious persons from Michigan. We three have had our health as usual. And the settlement to which we belong was considered healthy. The rains in the beginning of June were considered as the principal cause of the sickness by the medical Faculty. We have had a fine fall for business, and it was an advantage to us as our dam hung on our hands beyond all calculation. Oct 1st was an excellent month for work being dry and pleasant. We have built a frame dam, and will the frame with stone They are an oval or misshapen kind of stone called hard-heads, which are very plenty in places on the banks of the Huron. we had but a short distance to draw them. Two horses with a wagon and a yoke of cattle, would dig them out with a crowbar and haul from twenty to twenty-five loads a day. There is probably about 300 tons of stone in the dam. The wings of the dam were first built, they middle sills were next placed they were fastened in a log descending down stream from the middle of the dam. the ends of these sills where they came in contact is 14 feet higher up stream than the ends, that were fastened to the wings. There is willow brush placed under these sills so as to prevent the gravel from washing from under them ~~as little as possible~~. The logs that the frame rests upon and upon ^{were} built were dove tailed into the sills and wedged ^{over} ~~over~~ the dam resting on the bed of the river in each of these logs there is a brace to support the upper log of the dam, from the foot of these braces to the hill in full, with stones, which is probably twelve feet. Our plank wing 10 feet long besides the stump shot. It was thought best not to extend them further than the sills, so as to try them as flat as possible, we raise about 3 feet by the dam calculating to raise another more by placing plank on the comb of the dam, these plank to be thrown off high water if absolutely necessary to have an apron to the dam built on the wing.

To gravel the dam we built a row and brought it half a mile down the river, at first when the water was shallow we dug and shovled gravel out of the Huron and haul, it on a waggon at least $\frac{1}{4}$ of the river gravel was what we call bog limestone

There is a law now in force passed in June or July last allowing any person the privilege of daming the Huron on the condition of making and keeping in good repair a lock 14 wide and 75 feet long, any person injuring any dam where there is a good and sufficient lock is liable to damages. The Council and Governor has repealed at the same session the law relative to flowing lands according to this repealed law any person suing for damage on account of water being raised on his premises could recover nothing more than the actual worth of the land flooded, or damage done him one suit was all that could be brought against the person offending. It is now said that a law similar to the N. York law on this subject is in force where a person is liable to be sued every 24 hours for damages. I could not have mentioned this repealed or Obsolete law, if it had not been to give you chance to think if you dont give your opinion whether it will bear in our case as well as the law ^{and they will pass} we have been threatened with prosecution by the person owing above Bob Ford against whom we raise 21 inches he owing only one inch of the dam. The cause of his hatred toward us was owing to our taking part against him in difficulty between him and his nearest neighbor in which we said and say he acted in a mean, vindictive, and savage manner we were not alone in concerning his conduct but the whole settlement was against him. a Presbyterian deacon excepted. This Savage man is a Baptist preacher. There is eight establishments, or families belonging to this settlement. It may be said if a person interferes in others disputes, he will have business and it will on a large scale in a short time not disputing this. It may be asked whether it is not the duty of every honest man to support the weak where they are in danger of being trampled upon by those of limited intellect. Our head race is 36 feet wide and four feet deep. We built a culvert under the upper end of the head race with black as one of the two streams that flows into the pond has

has but little fall and runs through low land, the advantage to the meadow will be more than the expense in building the culvert and digging the race which will be about 100 rods long to remedy this we sunk four logs 18 feet in length across the cut ton which the river of the saw mill place across which rather. Our head is between 19 and 20 rods long we made it as short as we could; and built the dam below the island thinking it a cheaper and better plan. We have done nothing in the grist mill line except to add some work to the wheel much about next summer we shall endeavor to saw the lumber and have it seasoning and may possibly raise the frame. The locks are to be built in the dams on the Huron and ready for use the first day of October 1829. Robert has a barn to build and a well to dig next summer. This is weather enough for one summer. Botsford dug a well last summer it was the third trial, and succeeded by building the wall of the well on a wheel and sinking the wheel by digging the gravel from under it. The first three feet of the well was the soil & gravel soil the next eleven feet was sand, except two strata of clay each about a foot thick; the rest remaining distance a pebble gravel or loam that Botsford could not sink a curb in it. The well is 92 feet deep. The water in this well nor in any other that I have heard here neither rises nor falls up, that is found in the bottom stationary the gravel having to thrown out for the purpose of giving depth to the water in the well. Botsford's well was dug in the beginning of July when the water were tolerable high and the water in his well was sunk about eighteen inches. In the wells that dug here the water is either found in sand, or gravel. The Bog-limestone is found in layers are of different sizes, in length, breadth, and thickness; the greatest length 20 feet in breadth not more than 2 feet its thickness six inches there are large layers, they are found in all sizes under this there is a kind of bluish substance betwixt these layers that my informant supposes if it was work into brick and moulded like brick, it might be burnt into lime. The Ypsilanti lime burner, dug a pit for the limekiln and quarry to give Botsford the heads for the wall of the kiln, he then contracted two Vermonters who agreed to give Botsford the lime and burn one cent per bushel for what he had done. They went to work and burnt a kiln, which yielded between two and three hundred bushels they were not able to sell for cash after keeping the principal part of it three or four months which had so discouraging an effect as to induce them to give up the contract. They having the privilege of stopping when they thought proper. Botsford has agreed to deliver 1000 bushels a person in the village of Ann Arbor for 25 cents per bushel in the coming summer Botsford's lime is good. When I last wrote to you Botsford and we had merely a verbal bargain relative to our intended ^{the} water works, which we confirmed by a written agreement a short time afterwards. Washington continues to increase in numbers as well as in improvement in 1827 the census was taken in all the counties of Michigan for the purpose of regulating the delegation, there was 1500 hundred people in Washington at that time. The census should be taken this year I shall let you know what the increase is. The legislative council are elected for two years. Ann Arbor is still improving and is twice as large as Ypsilanti. Dexter's village does not grow up under his culture one cause is that he is too particular. Ann Arbor has much the best society there has been a jail erected in Ann Arbor last fall to my opinion it will retain the County seat. Ypsilanti and Dexter's establishment have heretofore acted together against Ann Arbor.

Hi Russ, I believe this letter is
from John Holden to James Balmer —
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