

Campbelltown May 25th 1833.

Dear Brother

I arrived here on the evening of the 23rd having made as quick a passage across both land and water as could be expected. The Steamboat left Detroit at the time appointed and ^{made} good headway against adverse winds and impenetrable fogs. The wind was very high as soon as we got out into the lake and consequently I became very sick and continued ailing for a day or so after I landed having completely lost my appetite. I was terribly drenched, and so weak with loss of sleep & appetite that I traveled but 24 miles and that with difficulty the first day. I landed at Erie at 5 o'clock in the morning on Friday making 1 day & 2 nights and started on after breakfast from Erie. The second day I went to Franklin 36 miles tolerably easy & in good time. The 3rd to Corbetts Tavern 37½ the 4th to the crossing of the Susquehanna 42 miles the 5th to the Rattlesnake tavern on the top of the Allegany ^{32 miles} when I was obliged to stop by a heavy shower of rain and waited about half an hour till the Stage came up into which I got and went in to Belfonte till dark 14 miles further. Where I took my passage in the same to Lewistown lest I might be prevented from moving at all the next day for it still continued raining as it had done every day since I left Erie & is now, it commenced on me about 11 miles from Erie and was showing that as well as every other day of my journey except the one next the last and some of them very heavy but in spite of all these I cannot say I was wet any day but rather damped. I was so fortunate always when a heavy shower was to find shelter and while it rained I rested which was never much more than one

hour at a time. It had been raining for a week so upon the
Mountains of Penn. before I arrived upon them which raised
the streams higher than they have been for 30 years but I had
no difficulty in crossing any but one that was the Allegheny
at Franklin in Venango County. I was told the Susquehanna
rose 16 feet perpendicular in a very short time; the water was
so high that logs struck the Bridge at least touched it
that is the Arches at Lewistown and nearly so at Harrisburg
It is rumored that the West Branch Canal has suffered much
but I know nothing certain. The Canal on the Juniatta from
Lewistown to the Susquehanna had suffered but little & from there
down to Harrisburg comparatively nothing. The stage left Bellefonte
at half past 11 O'clock the evening I arrived and drove all night
arriving at Lewistown the next morning at half past 8 o'clock
where I got shaved & dressed & took breakfast when it ^{was} one hour
later and then traveled 31 miles on foot without being late, which
brought me within 25 miles of Harrisburg at which place I
arrived the next day at two o'clock where I was one hour only
and reached Campbelltown at half past 7 o'clock where
I was saw with astonishment so little was I expected, so soon
in fact some can scarce believe I was where I intended to go.
I was but 18 days in motion on land and water & in that
time I traveled 1650 making on an average per day 92 miles
nearly. I found all well at home even old Mr. Sawyer contrary
to the expectations of all had rose from the of sickness and is
now able I am told for I have not yet seen to ride about in horse
back. One of the Miss Boals husband's called to see me when
I was away and wanted to know something about Grandfather

estate. I fear there is a storm brewing against me and no
Mr. Sawyer is at the bottom of it but I shall endeavour to meet
them at the half way house. They probably calculate that there
is some want of knowledge of the matter in one of which they
can take the advantage but I trust they will find themselves
deceived. They will have to beat a more determined person
than father was but I labour under disadvantages which
father did if the matter was as father found it I would
certainly dispossess Sawyer and sell that farm in defiance
of the world. But the storm may pass and I hope it may
for me at least it may and I have been one of the greatest
sufferers. The crops do not look so promising owing to that
long dry spell one of our fields is good the other only
middling. Wheat has rose to $1.06\frac{1}{2}$ from 94 what other
prices are I have not learned. There is some fine land near by
but for the rest of the way to Harrisburg it is a complete
wilderness and worse the land will never be worth cultivating
two thirds of it at least there is a middling spot here &
there and there for between I can scarce see how those people
live that do live there and yet they are reasonable in their
charges. $18\frac{3}{4}$ per meal was all I was charged. The expense
of my return was 10.75 and would have been but about 8 if
I had not rode 46 miles in the stage.

Farewell

To
John Geddes.

William Geddes
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Camphelt's to us
May 29th

25
1835
Mr. John Geddes
Upsilon
Michigan Territory