

Campbelltown July 26<sup>th</sup> 1834

Dear Brother I received your letter dated 12<sup>th</sup> on the 23<sup>rd</sup> the third time I enquired after it. We finished cutting our Oats the next morning and a more abundant crop we have not cut since 1817 when we had such tall Oats if you recollect in the field before the barn which we had just cut before the famous August flood which happened on the 9<sup>th</sup> so that harvest was still later than now and this is later than common. The greatest part of the Oats in the country is still to cut and troublesome cutting it will be for yesterday's rain and storm has leveled it with the ground which was the case in 1817 when most of our neighbours had their Oats to reap which will be their lot at present in many fields. My Oats is taller than the wheat here: the straw of which was very short more so than I ever knew it; but otherwise very fine especially about our City. Round about Palmyra it is not near as good even Jacob Early has but poor wheat and Rye. The Grass and Rye Crops were much injured by the cold in May. It will take 11 sheaves of Oats to make a bushel and in many places it will take 24. Mr. Early will not have a half Coop his field was early sowed and lay facing the North - Ours was in the field behind the barn and suffered less than common. We had a very wet June and a week in July and of course a very bad haymaking but the weather since has been favorable and harvest was ended in a very short time we commenced on the 8<sup>th</sup> and finished cutting on the 15<sup>th</sup> and hauling on 19<sup>th</sup> and would have sooner had we not been stopped twice by showers of rain. Our tenant has 818 doz. of wheat. 400 of Rye and the Oats will yield at least 50 bushels to the acre, 10 acres out. Wheat is worth \$1.00 Rye 50 cents Corn 50, Oats 28. The fruit of all kinds is totally destroyed so that we have no cherries nor will we have any apples peaches or plums to eat or Cider to drink this year. You have said nothing about the Locusts in your letter which has disappointed me not a little for so extraordinary an insect is certainly worthy of notice and will be contemplated by every thinking mind. They have had their very short liv'd. race and have perished at least that generation of them. They sung their deafening song while fluttering through the fields and woods during their honey moon they have started a fresh generation to penetrate into an allive in the earth another 17 years and they themselves are gone to destruction having lived to the view of man but about 5 weeks. They were and are not before we had time to fully consider of them. Uncle of Newville has seen 5 generations of them and a father but three. You and I may live to see 2 more which will make 8 but 5 I have no idea of living to see. "His meat was locusts and wild honey" is it not unaccountable that almost all kinds of animals, birds and beasts and fish devour them as a dainty and a few of either live to see two generations of them. So that it cannot be said that they have been habituated to them but it must be from some intrinsic good quality inherent in them which makes all grab at them as a dainty morsel. James and Scrippa had two grey squirrels and they quite gored that preyed them to any thing you could give them and would eat such a number of them without seeming to be satisfied which struck me as strange because they would seem to me to be out of the nature of food for such animals few at least of them have a change of such a feast. I went to see Samuel Carper in the beginning of June who I found well rejoicing that he had left Londonderry and was now living among the mountains of Bedford and I rejoiced with him seeing he was so well satisfied that he had escaped from under the thumb of those from whose breasts every feeling of humanity had long since been banished - of money lenders that he had escaped from and no longer needed to ask the tender mercies of the pure proud Muma and others. I felt happier in beholding the satisfaction that dwelt in the countenance of our old friend and neighbour than you will ever feel in contemplating or thinking of your 10 or 20 per cent gain of your unfeeling exactions from the needy. We rejoiced to see him so well satisfied with his new home a home which was not that of his fathers. I rode 20 miles with him through his pally to see and receive as favorable an impression of the country as it could give and he charged me not to report too unfavorably



of his choice. There is a good deal of fine land but generally speaking  
it is hard to cultivate being very rocky and stony and middling poorly  
timbered and they are so subject to late spring and early autumn frosts  
which all mountainous <sup>countries</sup> must be subject to, the climate is much more varia-  
ble and of course their Crops must be less certain than ours so that it ~~is~~ would  
not be my choice. Such countries are very productive if the seasons are favor-  
able but give me a small certainty rather than a great uncertainty. The  
Poth Valley had a very unfavorable appearance and grain was higher in  
both valleys than with us owing entirely to the uncertainty of their crops  
the Corn crop with Mr. Carpenter was destroyed last year by frost in August  
and there was a very poor appearance of Corn this spring but this spring they  
are not alone for the Corn every where I was had a bad appearance but  
with us where it is at least middling and maybe good if we have a  
favorable August. I left home on Friday afternoon and went to Harrisburg  
I was with Alexander all night who and family are well. I left Harrisburg  
at 9 o'clock and arrived at Newville early in the evening and found  
uncle and Aunt and Cousins all well. Uncle appears to be getting old  
fast, Aunt stands it better Cousin John and Sarah & Margaret's husbands  
stand the times much better than their ladies who in every sense of the  
word look rather old and so does Jane and Martha the two single Cousins  
I found Eliza McAllen there who stands the insroads of time and decay  
extraordinary well she scarce seems to get older which one could hardly  
expect from so slender a plant. Eliza had been at uncles a month and  
intended to stay another. I of course stayed over Sunday at uncles and  
went to church like a sinner as I always do and heard a man of very indif-  
ferent abilities preach a more indifferent sermon to what we seldom  
have a full house of English people. When I came to uncles I stepped in  
to the entry door and was met by Martha who I asked for the doctor and  
she after looking round for the young doctor and not finding him as-  
ked me if it made any difference which I told her it did not when she  
stepped out of the entry into the garden and called uncle who was working  
in the barn and I without further ceremony stepped out to him thinking at  
least he might know me but he did not so that I was an entire stranger  
to the whole house. Jane and Eliza passed me while I was in the entry but  
did not know but that I wanted medical aid. I knew Jane & Martha but  
did not know Eliza not expecting to see her there was probably the reason  
On Monday I went to Harrisburg and called and took supper with Aunt  
uncle Thomas' widow and about sunset I went to Uncle McAllen's stayed  
there all night and after breakfast next morning I started to Carper's  
a distance of 45 miles where I arrived early in the evening travelling over  
a very hilly mountainous road. With Carper I remained one day and  
returned back the next day to Harrisburg. Uncle and family were all  
well he has three sons middling active looking leads. Uncle is building a mill  
200 yds below town and looks well for a man of his age. I was the second  
night with him and reached Newville the next day where I was detained  
by Sunday and a rainy weather to Wednesday morning when I started and  
arrived at Harrisburg that day at 4 o'clock. I did not take time to call &  
see Uncle Paul's family but was informed they were all well. I felt myself  
completely at home at Newville I got a good deal of talk out of Uncle  
more than what I expected from a man who was reported to be so taciturn  
Aunt is as much over kind as Aunt Lucy was unkind. Cousin John & I were  
less together than might be expected he was called away too frequently I  
went however out one day with him and six others to play bullets about  
a mile out of town on the state road but I did not play their balls were  
too large 2 pounds. The next morning they were all informed on but one who the  
Constable took for witness and had to pay between 3 & 4 dollars fine. Uncle &  
Aunt rejoicing as well as Cousins at the same time. No man dare inform on a  
set of long bullet players about Campbelltown for if he did he would  
have to ride a rail with a coat of tar and feathers on him. Cousin  
John took down the name of your post town and County and said he would write to  
you some time. Cousin Eliza said she was very fond of corresponding with her rela-  
tives and requested me to ask you to write to her she thinks she would have  
more satisfaction in so going with a religious relative of which there are but  
few in the family of Geddes' out of Newville. I intend to go to the Bedford Spring  
after some time I think about the latter end of August when I will call and see



Uncle Paul's family. Cousins wanted me to send Ann up to see them and I got her persuaded to go and furnished her with money - she was to start on weanes day last since I have been too busy to call there and many of them come my way. I want her to take a good stay in order to make her for get a young doctor that lives in Palmyra of the name of Cosmus S. Miller a Dutchman from Lancaster County a tall good looking man who speaks good english and is I think a tolerable scholar but poor and inclined to trading in horses running horse races jockeying and trading every way even on Sunday - otherwise he is sober and decent. Some staving youth shalke says have ever homely wits" her being out will have a good effect for she is rather more intelecgent than any of her brothers. by nature and natural parts are more susceptible of improvement and less liable of being led astray by the follies of the world. It was reported that William the Printer had suspended specie payments owing to the pressure on the money market occasioned by the removal of the Deposites and I do not doubt it nor was it doubted at Newville for he was so very anxious to raise money last spring. I will pay him for your paper shortly. Doctor Wilson started for Detroit the beginning of June and said he would call and see Jane. he has an idea of establishing himself somewhere far west but had not determined a just <sup>place</sup>. Mr. James Wilson lives in Lewisburg & follows your Christian employment <sup>and</sup> <sup>is</sup> <sup>not</sup> <sup>wining</sup> without mercy. Your moral man James Clark still lives as usual at home working occasionally for the squire his sister and him keep house together since the death of their mother - they are determined to sell if they can and leave the parts but where they intend to go I have not heard Nancy Melony has been living with the squire since spring I was in the squire's and saw her the 29<sup>th</sup> with Richard Mc Bay's son Robert she looks tolerable well still and I think has quit painting but still the effects of time are rather too visible for her to pass for young any longer. John Darwin sailed for Ireland last fall & has not been heard from since. Walter Clark still lives in Millerstown and drives his trade but would like to move west if his wife would be willing to go with him. He has got to be a Captain of a Company of Volunteers and you may expect to hear of his being sent to legislate for us shortly. Carpus Peirs appealed to the Supreme Court 3 weeks before the time for trial and the time being rather short to prepare for trial I could not get our lawyer to get all so there was nothing done except that they took the depositions of Philip Wolfersburger and John Winters. It may lie over for years for it is the 7<sup>th</sup> trial on the list for Dauphin bounty. I am determined to concern myself very little more about it and let it rest as long as the lawyers are pleased to let it. Two of S. Garrison's sons are married John & Jacob the first and third. The old man though he was rather much in a hurry. There has been ~~some~~ <sup>few</sup> none of your acquaintances so happy as yourself in a religious point of view. But there has been a little stirring among the <sup>young</sup> boys too in our happy land in that matter. They religion are becoming outrageously temperate, and have invented a new kind of Adir called Ladies Tale at one of which last winter Jane Graydon's sister saw nearly the happiness of presenting a young son of her own handy work of which the article of these goods shows <sup>by labels</sup> pairs are all made and to be disposed of for charitable uses. ~~It is~~ It is a very good way to get the different sexes to meet and see each other home and perhaps full as good as the old fashion for the results are nearly the same; but be that as it may our heroine's arm was taken as a ladies armsought to be taken in Christian land by a young gentleman as no doubt all the others were when all of a sudden her gallant had to see her ladyship into the first door which happened to be old Tom Elder Esq. who said he was very happy in such a prize but not so the unlucky wight who was not a little cut and blushed & bled again not having dreamt that her ladyship had any such homspun articles about her. One of our legislators from Washington county is reported to be the father. I might give you a few more instances of increasing multiplying and replenishing the earth in the right way but I think this one will suffice. This letter I began on the 26<sup>th</sup> but am finishing on the 30<sup>th</sup>. I was to see the old woman on Sunday. Ann had left that for Newville on the day I mentioned. James has not returned home yet it appears he was not to see you. Thomas intends to go to Philadelphia soon I have not mentioned since I received your letter to Agrippa about going to Michigan on account of having lately heard that James was sick at Dayton Ohio but was getting better because <sup>and</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>is</sup> James forced to buy the old woman would like to let Agrippa go lest he might fare no better. I will let you know by a newspaper if he will come home. Jim and I have been busy harvesting since it commenced but Thomas was complaining and I dare



work a day. He never did work nor never will unless stern necessity compel  
him. You have not informed me of the amount of tax paid by you on my land - Do in your  
next. I was asked by John Gingrich yesterday what I asked for my land. Told him  
\$6 dollars I had been asking all along and did not feel inclined to fall but would  
rather keep it a few years as sell for less for I considered it under price at that  
You may think I am rather firm at that price but I think it best to be independent  
of the times and let people know that we need not sell nor that we will not  
unless we get what our land is worth. I feel confident that what we have been  
offered we can have at any time and the income of the land will not be much  
less than the interest. Gingrich said a friend of his wanted to buy land and I told  
him to send him on that I would show him the land at any time he would call. He  
followed by cutting off about the half of the wood and farming with a strong  
hand 1000 dollars <sup>might</sup> could be made. I told I believed I could make it off it &  
that the wood of 30 acres would bring 2000 dollars it would be worth that to  
a distiller that distilled as strong as Gingrich and fatened cattle on the slope  
as he does. Our land is good and will sell at least before the crop & I am one of those  
Whose money I would hardly know what to do with and they look to me for its safe  
keeping. It will take it but hardly <sup>now</sup>. Farewell  
Do John Geddes  
William Geddes

Campbell Town July 30<sup>th</sup> (25)  
1826

W. John Geddes  
Ann Arbor  
Michigan Territory

John