

Palmyra Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> 1837

Dear Brother

Your letter of the 12<sup>th</sup> October did not arrive to the first inst. owing to its not being sent from <sup>Ann Arbor</sup> ~~Essex~~ to the 20<sup>th</sup> as per post mark. I am still here and will remain so for another year as I am held to bail to answer Sawyer and prosecute my appeal in the Supreme Court which cannot be done before next June. Sawyer's Executors have sold the land to Philip Grouber for \$64 per acre <sup>#</sup> 24 more than what Otter paid but they have to give security in <sup>#</sup> 4000 for the title. Grouber sold his to John Segrist Jacob Early's son-in-law for \$80 per acre Cash. Sawyer's Executors are to receive \$5000 in Cash and the remainder in <sup>#</sup> 800 payments. The land measures 160 acres. It is thought that it will take <sup>#</sup> 4000 or more to pay the debts. Unless Perry Hill Bell will bail the title I think it doubtful that they can procure security. Sawyer's attack on me has operated very much against them as it is considered by every body as mean and unjust and has laid bare what was known but by a few and by them nearly forgotten the manner in which he held the land and forced his sisters and their children through necessity to yield to him. The idea of his recovering off me in my own right is laughed at and especially that he should recover my share of the money father had in his hands when he made that contract with Sawyer. That father would sell the money in his pocket at all let alone for less than what it was worth is out of the nature of things and too foolish a thing for a man, ~~expecting common sense to do.~~ We contended that he only sold what was uncollected of our shares and gave Sawyer authority to collect, sue for and recover off all persons except father himself who certainly would not give a man authority to sue himself!!! If Sawyer's Executors are unable to give the required security it is likely I can effect a compromise with them as it will then be their only resource. I will still have my appeal tried in the Supreme Court as the whole transaction never was before them and I have hopes that on a view of the whole concern that I may be sustained and that

they decide that as none of the heirs had received the full amount  
of their shares from Grandfather, that nothing could be recov-  
ered off them and of course there was nothing for an administra-  
tor to do which would put all to rest forever. If I had waited  
one year longer I might have had <sup>4</sup>10 per acre more for father's  
farm as sales have since been much higher. But James, Thomas  
and Agrippa have made 50 per cent on their shares and I  
suppose you Michigan heirs have also gained more than the pop-  
ular so that on the whole we done better by selling when we did.  
I am the only person who has lost and will continue to lose as  
circumstances force me to remain inactive and keep part of my  
own funds at my immediate command to meet possible losses.  
I have <sup>4</sup>300 of United States paper on the new Bank which I thought  
of taking west this fall to purchase second handed land with  
but have not got away it being the next thing to impossible to  
procure change to travel with. I have received no news from Agrippa  
or James since my last, but have heard by word of Mr. Clark that all  
well at Newville. Of Mrs. F. Geddes I know nothing nor of any of  
that family. The real particulars as to the day of <sup>death</sup> Thomas's death  
I am not certain of not thinking it a matter of consequence.  
And do not wish to bring it to his mother's remembrance to  
satisfy an idle curiosity. I sent a Lebanon paper containing  
the result of our election in the county and two of the Intelligencer  
and a pamphlet containing Buchanan's speech in support of  
the Sub treasury scheme. I will send with this Mr. Rivers's speech  
in favor of the deposit Banks and perhaps the speech of Mr.  
Salmon on if after I read it <sup>its</sup> worth presents to you. If however  
the want to charge you letter postage on any papers I send  
let them keep them. Our Senate stands Whig & Anti 19 Van Bur.  
14 and House Whig & Anti 44 Van Buren 56. Corn crop has  
been very abundant. Present price 50 pr. bu. Oats .35 Rye  
.80, Wheat 1.75 - Buckwheat .50 Potatoes .25. Beef per  
cwt. #6.25 - Pork 6. Butter 14 cts per lb. Eggs 14 per doz.  
R. G. Graydon was well and his father and family. Dauphin County  
gave a majority of 300 for the Anti-Masonic ticket. You can tell

any person who inquires about what I would take for my land  
I expect an extraordinary price for it as soon as the rail road  
is made and the times have changed for the better and that I am  
indifferent about selling at present unless such a price was  
offered. I have done nothing in calling Lawyers Executors to settle  
Grandmother's Estate but I think I will this month sometime  
as I ~~think~~ will be at home all winter and can attend to it. It will  
perhaps have some effect in bringing them to terms or to drop the  
whole concern. They will be as much perplexed with it as I am  
with the other and more so they knowing nothing at all of the  
matter whereas I had some little knowledge of it. They talk  
of moving west in the Spring. Our Church is still wasting away  
and particularly the Derry part of it. Kelly and family have  
not been in for years and the Logan's and Robinson's seldom  
attend and I am the only representative of the McCallen race  
and sit alone in our seat with the back and front seats empty  
about me. The Hanover part is rather the most numerous and  
last spring made a move to have half the minister's aid bare  
Morehead's School House which is ominous of a total  
dissolution ere long of Derry Church. They talk even of build-  
ing a church with the remaining funds in Hanover. We still  
pay a small amount of stipend but not enough with the inter-  
of funds to pay Mr Sharon so that these few years they have  
been touching on the principal of funds. James Wilson went away  
in arrears. He married a Cousin of his first wife's in Ohio and  
is I believe somewhere in that state. Matthew Holmes has sold and intends to  
move west next spring. Our Reform Convention have not finished their  
labors so that I cannot say what is or will be done. But as soon as they  
finish ~~their labors~~ ~~the result of their proceedings~~ the result of their proceedings  
Our old Schoolmaster, Philips Eger, has removed from our town. I was obliged  
to rent a house for him and raise the rent by subscription. He had occupied  
the Palmyra School house for a year and ~~been~~ and the people wanted it  
to have a school taught in it and threatened to throw him & family  
out on the street if he did not move and as he could not find where to put  
his drunken carcase and save himself from being thrown out I was throughly  
constrained to do it for him. I have hopes we will carry the Common School sys-  
tem next spring and I was elected a pastor in order if we succeed to put it  
in execution. My old friends the Early's are my bitter enemies on that account  
but their influence is no longer what it has been. Ritner will lose some votes  
in our county by his persevering in the establishing the free school system that  
his predecessor Mr Wolf enacted. It was adopted partly in all the counties  
of the state spring a year except Lebanon and that neglected it under  
in every township. The last spring East Hanover carried it and we expect  
Londonderry to follow suit next spring. We have delightful weather  
All are well

John Geddes

Farewell, William Geddes

Robert power of attorney was pronounced deficient by me

the 12 at

Palmira Pa  
Nov 8th

1837

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Mr John Geddes  
Ypsilanti  
Michigan

