

Aun Arbor, April 17th 1839

Dear Brother. Time is flying along, and this letter is left behind because it has not started yet. Since I last wrote to you and on the 12th of March last Robert was married to Miss Chloe Lane a sister of his first wife. I believe you never saw her she is rather taller than Maria was, and probably some heavier. She was born the same year and the same month of our sister Anna. I believe Chloe is a few days the youngest. It was thought quite strange by almost every one and the difference in their ages would seem to say a foolish move. It was kept a secret, and myself and the Gysilanti Lane, knew nothing of it until two or three days after the knot was tied. Why Robert married her is easier to ask than answer. It may be said that it is one of those strange freaks that widowers are somewhat subject to. There is one thing certain Chloe has never made ^{place} a good ^{place} to Robert ~~and I feel~~ Robert ~~left his house~~ ~~and she brought Chloe~~ in the same day. The next day he moved most of his things and Robert L. and Mary Lane is still in Gysilanti at her Uncle Marcus Lane's and will probably stay there this summer at any rate. I was willing that Robert should raise his own children, but if Aunt Chloe should prove a tyrant of which there is some probability I will take Maria back again, if Robert should think best.

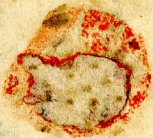
We have got out the hewed timber for a gristmill this spring and intend to put up the frame, and roof and weatherboard, at this summer and fall. We think that ought to have a gristmill here. And think it will be more profitable than a sawmill its true it will cost much more. Next year we intend to put in two runs of stones to begin with. The Gristmill is to be 46 feet and two stories besides the Basement story. The times are very dull in Michigan and have been this spring. Our currency is in a deplorable state. The Michigan Bank and The Farmers and Mechanics Bank of Detroit are still good and will probably continue so. Them two Banks and the St Clair ^{Bank} at one time were all the Banks in Michigan, that were considered par even here in Michigan. River Raisin ^{Bank} in Calhoun County Bank, Constantine Bank, and Huron River, are called ^{good} and them are about all that is left of our fifty Banks we had this time last. A greater fatality did not befall the sons of Priam in so short a time. Poor Michigan has fell into bad hands. The State of Michigan suspended payment on her Internal improvements, the first of March and has scarcely resumed yet, owing to the Deposit Bank stopping payment (which is called the State Bank of Michigan) to the Democratic Loco-foco Bank of Detroit. It stopped payment with \$602,000 of the State funds. The Loco, have ^{said} and do pretend that it will resume again, but it is very doubtful. The ruin occasioned by the party does not forget them in its fell swoop.

1839

[Handwritten scribble]

Mr William Geddes
Palmyra
Lebanon County
Pa.

1839



The Ypsilanti and Tecumseh Rail-road has stopped and ^{the} hands have been discharged and are to be paid off next week. I called on them I believe in February and got the \$140 from them. If it had been neglected a month longer it would not have been easy to get even that. It is doubtful whether it will be commenced again. The Grand System of internal Improvements (so called) of Michigan. Many are beginning to think is a foolish and extravagant piece of folly. That the people of Michigan are not at all able to finish. And if it was finished it could not pay four per cent on the original cost. Indeed it is said not every line would pay the expense of running that line. Just to think five route of Rail Road and Canal across the peninsula of Michigan "How ridiculous!" Central Rail-Road progresses slowly. that part of it between Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor, is jogging along slowly. It may be finished this fall. it may not. The Legislature of Michigan have passed an act to establish a State Bank. The directors appointed by the Legislature are to be half Whig and half Democratic. The Legislature to appoint half the Directors and the State to have half the stock. I have not seen the act. Our Legislature could not elect a United States Senator. The Democratic party had a decided majority in both houses. But they could not agree among themselves. And the Whigs were willing to put it off until next winter when we hope and I think there is a fair prospect of Michigan being a Whig State. Our Governor is to be elected next fall. And our Senators hold their seats but two years. Ann Arbor went Whig by 49 majority this spring. I am willing you would pay off the proprietor of the what was once called the Philadelphian. and now called the "Religious Telegraph and Observer" and discontinue the paper. I take ^{the} Michigan Observer a better paper of the same Religious persuasion. The Michigan Observer is ~~an~~ anti Slavery paper as well as Presbyterian. I am not an abolitionist yet. though decidedly opposed to Slavery. The New School has got the better of the Old School, in that famous Law suit. And that is as it should be. What has become of your Harrisburgh sisters and how has that affair been settled. Was the Philadelphia Senators allowed their seats. And how is the whole concern going to work for or against the Van Buren party. You might have told us when you mentioned Samuel Cooper how much of a family him and Polly had. How are you and the Lawyers getting on with that suit. Cork was 9.00 per hundred last fall. Wheat is now 1.30 it was a month ago 1.44. Corn 76 Cents 31. We still sell Oak Lumber at \$8.00 per thousand feet and Poplar at 10.00. We have had but little back water this spring. The University is not to be built this summer. but there is to be four dwelling houses to be built this summer for head men the University, the houses are to be brick and roof with Tin. They were let at \$7000 a house. I am to deliver them 30,000 feet of Oak Lumber ^{at Ann Arbor}

for \$10.50 per thousand I have agreed with two men to haul it for \$2.50 per thousand
The distance four miles. A man with two Horses and Wagon charge \$1.50 per load
for hauling lumber from this to the Village of Sun-Arbor. two loads per day
500 feet of inch Oak is a good load. This is a hard country on Horses. The pole-wit
Kills a number of Horses every ^{year} a disease almost unknown in Londonderry
Robert in partnership with another man has bought a preemption right in Illinois
in Stevenson County about eight hundred acres. a water Right is on it near the
County seat 1 1/2 miles and the nearest mill privilege to the County seat. Robert gives
\$500 for the undivided half of the claim: the ^{land} is still to be paid for as the country
has never been surveyed: it will probably not be offered for sale before three years
Robert's partner speaks very highly of it. and I presume it is worth all they paid
for it. The partner wants Robert's part in building a Sawmill on it I do not know
whether he will or not it is somewhat doubtful at present. If Robert had not got married
he might have done something. That country is greatly praised. and great wages is
given to hands. And it would seem to hear their stories. all were getting rich
And after all the money that is so plenty was made in some other country and
their golden hopes are all anticipation \$2.50 is the price to shoe a horse in that coun-
try steel toe'd shoes. Ever since the failure of the Ypsilanti Bank which was on the
18th of January. Chicago and the country west of it have had meetings and agreed
to take no more Michigan money. Ypsilanti Bank was the most rascally failure
even in Michigan. They were a parcel of Villianous Can Buren men who managed it
We did not lose a dollar on it. Ypsilanti Bank bills are worth but .12 1/2 on the dollar
here at home: We Michiganders acknowledge that our State has a bad name and is
deserving of it. That the flood gates of villany has been thrown open either by knaves
or fools. and we are now receiving our reward. A more corrupt set of men than our
rulers are; never govern a free country. And still such is the power of party that
the mightiest efforts are scarcely able to put them down. consequently I am oppo-
sed to Abolition ~~and let water parties and think not all men that have a spark~~
of integrity or patriotism ought to unite their energies and make common cause
against those enemies of their country. farewell John Geddes
To Mr William Geddes