

Palmyra July 31<sup>st</sup> 1840

Dear Brother. Yours of the 18<sup>th</sup> inst. was received on the 25<sup>th</sup> which was  
the quickest arrival that I can recollect of. Harvest  
that is Rye and wheat harvest was over with us the 13<sup>th</sup>. And oats time  
is nearly past. The rye is very poor but wheat very fine and the  
oats tolerable. The Corn looks well so far. Wages 50. cents for  
haymakers and Bakers and binders and 62 $\frac{1}{2}$  for Cradlers. Wheat  
9cts pr. bu. Rye has been sold as low as 35 cents as well as Corn. Oats  
sells at 25. We get fresh beef from the butchers at 6 $\frac{1}{4}$  cts pr. lb. Took 15  
Acres of Wheat to cut & shock at 1 dollar pr. Acre and found my  
own boarding. It was at my door or I would not have done  
it for that. I find a haban to follow me and paid him 1.25  
pr. day, he finding his board. I cut it in 4 $\frac{1}{2}$  days and he raked  
and bound it and we shocked it together and I made 1.80  
pr. day and he doubled the daily pay of the neighborhood.  
The curse that is spoken of in St. James as lying on those who don't pay  
the laborers for cutting down their harvest is surely upon the  
farmers of this land. I earned \$16.45 in Hay & Harvest. I had  
sent the pay for the North American with the agent of Pickoult's  
Reporter when he called on me for the price of that paper and  
when you wrote that it did not arrive and that you could  
now do without it, I wrote to the proprietor of that paper  
that he should return me my money. But got no answer  
but I thought that he would perhaps send on the paper &  
we would have to abide by it. The Farmers generally have liquor in the  
harvest fields but there is very little drunk. We have no temperance soci-  
eties with us but drinking is getting out of fashion. The present  
generation is much more temperate than the one our fathers belonged  
to. Gambling too is nearly annihilated. The love of money has  
triumphed over every other sin almost. Really corruption &  
dishonesty is the order of the day. Our fathers were less temperate  
but ten fold more upright. The majority of our two last legis-  
latures were a real set of knaves. Our <sup>new</sup> member in the lower house  
voted for pay when absent, and <sup>I</sup> they will be all served  
as we will serve ours. We lost our little daughter on the 15<sup>th</sup> June  
She died of an inflammation of the brain from teething. Death  
has also been busy here. Adam Haak<sup>o</sup> wife and his son in law<sup>o</sup> daughter  
died within half an hour of each other in the same house. Abraham  
Philips' widow also died about the same time and a number of  
others that you were not acquainted with. The deaths are nearly  
all females. I am opposed to the great fops that is making  
about hard Cider and building Log Cabins. I will attend  
on the 3<sup>rd</sup> August at our County meeting and I think that  
will be all. This extraordinary course of electioneering

has no good effect with us. Lebanon County will do much better than she did for Garrison. We will have 8 or 900 where as we had but 318 before. Our Township will do about the same as before. I believe I am at present the most moderate party man of us all. I want no coaxing to attend elections but still say very little about the matter. Party rules the hour and it is useless to talk to party men. I have heard nothing of our New-biller Relations nor of any others. I sent you Fisher letter to me on the Sawyer Case. The grain on our old place was first rate. On the little meadow behind the house there was 189 large bushels of Wheat, that will yield 160 Bu. or 40 Bushels to the Acre. You need not rent out any of my land for if I get rid of the lawsuits here, it may be I will leave this country shortly, unless my Commission as a Justice turns out worth attending to. There is plenty of men here that would farm it if they were only out, but the expense of moving is too great for their means. The laboring class would nearly all leave this country if they could, but their very poverty binds them to it. Just now I received a letter from Agrippa from which it appears he is farming a little, but very little having only 36 acres in fence. His wheat was poor and the only stock he has is a few hogs and 1 Cow. He will have 10 hogs for sale. He says there is little or no market for Wheat. Land has been selling for \$5 pr. Acre. He says he will write to you shortly. I had received a letter from him in the spring and I requested him to write every 3 months and also to write to you in order to improve himself and keep up a brotherly correspondence with us. He says his mother has bought out Thomas' wife and sent him on a deed for a fraction of Forty 31 acres and some perches of Thomas' land thinking she owned it as heir to her son, but Agrippa says the laws of Illinois divide the property of an intestate equally amongst the whole and the half blood. The mother having only a life estate in it and the widow one third whether in toto or only for life he does not say, but I should think only for life so that his mother's <sup>31</sup> acre is worth very little. He says he will wait to the heirs conclude to sell the land if he has to do that he may want a while, for my part I will write to him that if he gets a deed drawn and sends it on I will sign it for those 31 acres free gratis and will endeavor to get R. G. Graydon to do the same and let the rest of the land lie. If you Robert and Mr. Cavers do so I suppose him & James can agree and Am too and then he will have what he wants, without having all the land sold. His letter is dated 13<sup>th</sup> July and he says the wheat is

nearly all cut and in general is middling good. The Corn looks  
tolerable well with him. I was at Harrisburg on the 28<sup>th</sup> for Fisher  
would give me no rest until I would pay him. During the time the  
suit was pending I had paid him seventy and he now charged me  
\$125 in all ~~\$200~~. We have fought about this matter four years and  
have had 5 or 6 trials but still I thought it was too much &  
<sup>thought</sup> I must get off with ~~\$100~~ but he would not agree. This is  
spending money with a vengeance. And as it is for settling  
an administration account which father it appears was bound  
to do as well as all other administrators let there be little or  
much to little for. I am bound to pay all the Fees and Costs  
and then my other expenses and loss of time, besides the vexation  
makes it a very bad business. The said Lawyers Lawyer were to  
get the half if they should recover off me which would have been  
at least 3 times as much as what he was getting. I contended that  
our loss in that estate before was enormous and notwithstanding  
we now gained the action we were still losing. If father had done  
as I have done, viz made them go on with his claim as he wanted  
them and not let them take their own course, and then stood by &  
seen that they done their duty, he never would have been beaten.  
When the will was set aside father appealed to the Supreme <sup>Court</sup>  
but never pushed it through and for \$100 that could have been done  
which would have established the will and thrown the whole of  
the Costs off Lawyer. The Judges on this trial said the will ought  
to have and would have stood if father had carried out his  
appeal. It was monstrous that father suffered himself to be  
beaten as he did. it appears that he was fatigued to it. He lost  
a credit for his own bill of Costs on his Executor account and  
now I am allowed a credit on his administration account for  
Lawyers bills and the both stood on the same principle which  
must have been owing to some blunders of his. In my account I had  
charged myself with nothing and asked credit for \$85.79 Costs  
paid to Lawyer which credit the Orphans Court disallowed  
and they charged me with \$37.24 and interest from March 1822  
which after deducting \$100 allowed for settling the account  
and the fees left me charged with a balance of near \$1200. And  
the Supreme Court as I understand Fisher has balanced the account in  
my favor over \$800. And about \$500 <sup>up</sup> than what Lawyer wanted  
me to be charged with. Lawyer, Attorneys fought desperately nearly a  
whole day before the Supreme Court and thought they must win and  
were very much mortified when they saw that they would be beaten  
& I saw Samuel Shortly who appeared quite ~~well~~ fallen for I am  
told he was nearly sure of getting 12 or 1500 off me. But they find  
that they have a different kind of man to fight than father.

I understand that they are not quite satisfied yet but mean to give  
me another heat but in <sup>what</sup> way I cannot learn. I have never done  
any thing with them about Grandmothers estate but shall if  
they again attack me. Father was defeated in every thing & I have  
beaten his enemies before you in every case without the help of the footing  
to stand on.

Little Robert is ailing a little but the rest of us  
are well and happy. The weather is very dry  
and warm and the Corn begins to suffer for want  
The Thermometer stands at 95 twice this month,  
and that in a cool place. January

Mr John Geasey

William Geasey

Nov. 25<sup>th</sup>  
Copy to my  
brother my Day

27th 1767 Lymh  
Geo. Geasey