

Washtenaw, February 17th 1829

Dear Brother, The Saw mill is not a going yet; it will likely start this month, but expect you do not care about waiting upon it, and as the three months has passed by I shall endeavor to make out the quarterly return from Michigan. We have had an excellent fall for business, the Winter has been favorable in December, and January; February has been cold so far, especially the second week since my last letter our works progressed steadily towards completion, though somewhat tardily and we discharged our hands accordingly. They Mill rights commenced on the 11th of December and in winter had set in (though not severely) their part of the concern progressed slowly, their was more or less of them at work on to the 30th of January, when they quit until the blacksmith would have the irons ready. They mill right is to have one hundred dollars for fixing the running gears he has put on 130 $\frac{1}{2}$ days work now; and it will require as much as will make 150 to finish the job he will make nothing by the undertaking. This is owing to his hands some of which were of a good line and some of a Ferrapin nature; that is the first recoiled at every puff of wintry air, and they last were almost as immovable as high Olympus. I have been told that 70 days work in temperate weather ought to complete the running gears of a saw mill. Let that bear it will; this much can easily be seen that it is best never to hire by the day in cold weather.

The blacksmith who is the undertaker of running gears, had six hands here some part of the time, he is a business driver himself but has some worthless hands, or more properly dilatory hands. The blacksmith has had the iron this six months and had done but little a week ago, he has of late been promising from one week to another for a month or more. He has his pay which was likely considerable effect; we pay him principally in lumber the summer and fall of 1827. He has had his shop burnt and has been sick; but notwithstanding he is to blame, and we shall be careful how we trust him again; It is apparently no damage to us the mill is ^{being} in operation; as the persons that would have brought logs to saw if the mill was going bring them as it is; and if no serious accident happens we will saw all the logs that comes in five months after the mill starts. There is about four hundred logs in the mill yard now; the four fifths of which are oak. They last of hired hands left us the 20th of December and we have done without since though our business rather drives us, the days being short and cold little is done. Last week we have been cleaning the island that is in the pond to silence the murmurs of some of the neighbors there is a day's work to do on it yet. It was almost too cold to do any thing else. The Thermometer on the 12th of this month was as low as 11 degrees below zero at five in the morning; it arose to 8 below by sunrise; the 9th was 7 in the morning; at eight above the warmest part of the day; the 10th 2 and 12; 11 1 and 6; 12 -8 and 15; 13 5 and 13 12 10 and 21. The third of January 2 in the morning at 12 at noon. The 10th of Feb. and 16 noon. The 3rd of February 2 A.M. and 15 noon. From this statement you will see that there has been 5 days at or below zero here, this winter. The coldest day in Washtenaw, in January was the 3rd in Detroit it was the tenth 4th above zero in the morning. The average of January in the morning in Detroit was 23rd 20. The average of the same time of day in Washtenaw for the same month was 20th 50th.

This account leaves Washtenaw the coldest though it is 3 miles south of Detroit; we are probably 100 feet higher than they are. I see by the Philadelphian that the 3rd of January it was 5 above in Philadelphia A.M. The Thermometer was the same height in Detroit that day A.M. I could send the Register of Washtenaw but it would be of little advantage for you do not know the state of your own country. The warmest day at Onondaga last summer was 74th.

We have had a letter from Uncle James dated the 16th of December; He was about home last summer; has received no letter from Pa. since last March; has wrote to William in Philadelphia in July he had the offer; wages 300 dollars per month; the weather he was afraid would be too warm or he would probably would have went, he recommended his wife's brother William who received the appointment. George is in a law office in Skamatalas village about 15 miles from home. This is all you would care about knowing in the letter we received. As for Pa. news I had but little civilization I could tell him nothing about him. I have closed the bargain with Parsons, equally to your demand; he is to pay on the first day of June 1891, \$200 with interest from the date of the agreement to be made out and ready for delivery on the first day of June 1891 or else I have to pay him for his improvement if he should think fit to demand it. This is contrary to your opinion, but how I have answered very well. But amongst strangers it cannot be expected, as bare mention of it; might suggest the idea of something unfair and improper, and as we are all shy he might have considered it as a refusal on my part to convey the premises on any fair and honorable condition. Taking these things into consideration I said nothing to him about your caution. In conveying lands a deed has to be given sooner or later, and two years is certainly time enough. If you are not likely to be here in time, I will send you the form of a power of an attorney that will answer here, which you can copy and return executed. I think there will be no difficulty with them man but I wish to have no fishers on our part.

on the first day of January next. The Government recommends and the Legislative Council sanc-
tions or confirms the appointments of the County officers for the term of three years,
your land was valued at \$720 and your tax \$2.30. Our water works will cost about 700 dollars so
far as the mill is ^{not} going I cant give you all the items of expense this time. you can expect them
in my next. We will do but little to the great mill this summer. We shall endeavor to saw the
lumber for it and have it seasoning. We have had our usual health since I wrote to you last
The Saw mill will be started next week if the weather is suitable; as the blacksmith has some
of the irons ready and is to work at the rest. I think I will have to send the next letter home
to Londonderry. I wanted Robert to keep up my correspondence with father, but if it is left for
him to do there will be nothing done about it. I shall attend to it myself as all this kind
of business left to me. In the estimated expense of the Saw mill, head race, dam & our own work
is not included, nor the contract with Protidge is out of his water right.
My next letter will be written about three months after this one. Nothing more to write at present

Farewell John Geddes

To William Geddes

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Mr William Geddes
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township Lebanon

Mr John

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John Geddes
Washtenaw County
Michigan Territory