

Rome July 13th 1807

Dr Sir

I learn with extreme regret that you have heard or conceived that the inhabitants of this Village generally, entertain views inimical to your interest in the settlement of a tract of country in which you are a principal proprietor; inasmuch as I conceive a misunderstanding upon a subject of that kind productive of evil consequences in many respects. I take the liberty of offering a few observations, in order to do away any impressions you may have formed as it respects myself, and to vindicate my neighbours in your opinion as far as it is proper for me to do. In the first place let me state to you that I entertain for you personally a high regard, and that as far as men of property have an interest to uphold and assist each other in the rights of property, in behalf of my father & those gentlemen for whom I am engaged to attend to their interest, every cooperation in my power will be cheerfully exerted to promote your interests in this country. To proceed with the subject of this letter I now declare to you Sir that I have never in any manner taken any steps directly, or indirectly to inspire or prejudice the advancement & settlement of

that part of the Country in which you are now a large proprietor
and that I have never heard among the inhabitants of this
Village or its Vicinity any idea expressed which was in
the smallest degree hostile to those views, & let me here
ask what possible inducement could there be for a Conduct
which would not ^{only} betray a great want of principle & delicacy but
also a base & malicious disposition; I say there can be none,
every thing which tends to the increase of that Country in wealth
and population is seriously to be sought for by us and there can
be no reason why the settlement of your lands should not be as
much desired by those who are not immediately interested in the
settlement of the lands, as any other in the Country; there is no
rival establishment there to this place but the growth of
every place must tend to increase the wealth of the inhabitants
of this. We all consider it important that the communication
by land should be facilitated, but you must be well aware
that persons who settle in this Country are not generally possessed
of large capitals & therefore have it not in their power to contribute
to the furthering those objects in the manner they could wish
for my own part I freely declare that were I possessed of the

Capitol and of the interest in lands upon the turnpike
leading from this place to Mexico, which some people have
I would strain every nerve to complete & effect that important
road, as it is, it meets with very recommendation in my
father, but here, you see me in the same situation as
my neighbours incapacitated to lend pecuniary aid, from
the circumstance above mentioned - The reason why this object
has not recd more attention hitherto from my father is the heavy
disbursements which he has made in this place, which at the
same time I contend is mutually assisting by its growth
the land North & West of it - When in conversation with
Mr Cott upon the subject he mentioned his opinion that
it would be best that the road should be opened out the whole
distance in the first instance, in which I concur entirely, but
would it not be an important ^{point} that the road should be so
far finished from this place Westerly, as to direct the attention
of people, from the Black river by the State Road, and from
Sandy Creek and those places by the road which turns off after
you cross Fish Creek, it appears to me that the turnpike if
finished past those roads would have a tendency to draw a
great train of settlement to that country speedily -

I am Sir With respect & Esteem
Yr obt^s Wm L. Hunt

Geo Leiba Esq

Alone March 20th 1804

Dear Sir

I rec^d your favor of the 6th inst last -
Mail - The amount of Ballam due
from Mr Winch to the Store at Mexico is on the
Books £248-11-6 - As I expect you only
wanted the amt in order to know what sort of
agreement to make with him - having understood
by Winch that he had some conversation about
giving up his house and improvements with you
last fall - - Should you want the acct in full
each article I will give it at any time - I have
from Mr Meyer the amt of Winch's acct also - with
this alteration; Mr Meyer on a settlement of my
own acct with Oneida Company found a Ballam
due me and he proposed I should take it out of
some of the debts due at Mexico which I agreed to
do - and of Mr Winch's debt £73-14-10½ was
set off to me - which would reduce the amt of the
above to £174-16-7½ - I have spoken to Winch
about paying me that sum of £73-14-10½ - he has
objected and says he expected to make some agree-
ment with you ~~for~~ - for the whole amt -

With regard to the Lots on Town No 17. when
you come up in the Spring or Summer I will take
out the boundaries out of your Field Book and
put in the boundaries as they now are -

It is yet uncertain whether the line will remain

remain as it is now run or whether it will be
altered again - It seems there is much
trouble in fixing the Bound of Reservation around
the Port - It was always supposed by me -
that the Reservation was to contain One mile
square or 640 Acre - But according as the
Law may be construed it may contain $938\frac{1}{2}$ Acre

As the line now stands Mr Lauram has got -
7760 Acre in his piece - supposing the reservation
contain 640 Acre or thereabout. but supposing it
to contain $938\frac{1}{2}$ Acre which the State may claim
then Mr Lauram will have only 7467 Acre
- The quantity they ought to have is 7571
Acre -

I have understood a certain Mr Burt who has
leased the State Reserve had petitioned the Legis-
lature to settle this matter and if so - perhaps
it will be determined this winter in which case
the matter can be settled between yourself &
Mr Lauram so as to fix this line where it
ought to be or let the present line remain and take
land on one side or the other to balance it as
the line now runs it cuts off about 7 or 800 Acre
of the part which was formerly run out for you
and taking all these matters into consideration it appears
to me it will be better for you to let it remain untill
you come up and then we shall know more about
what the Legislature have or will do in the premises.

Dear Sir with Esteem

Yours Obedt Servt
Ben Wight

Fort Stanwix July 20th 1793

Respected Sir

I have Delayed sending you the Field Book & Maps longer than I wished & Intended, but the Great rains that we have had here since you left Fort Stanwix prevented me from laying out the Road and I thought it best to send them all together also — The Road which you will see laid down in the field Book and Chained Aumate I think will be a very good one but the Greatest Difficulty I find is in Crossing Fish Creek which I have laid down on the map nearly as it runs but I am very much troubled to find a Fording way across it and I have left it undetermined where the ford way shall be as you see by the course of the ^{being so much East & west} that the Road may cross it at the best and most convenient place ^{within a mile} & yet the Line which I have Run will be but very little out of the way — I have not Run the Road ~~no~~ farther than the East Line of the Township as I think it not necessary — supposing that the Settlers that settle the Lots through which it should come would wish to have it to accommodate them — I joined an Indian to show me the best way for the Road and he told me that the Hill which lies on the West side of Fish Creek was so bad that a Road could not be got up it until ~~quite~~ was carried up to the Islands at which place I found a tolerable good place to ascend the hill and from thence took my course — but I think it will be a considerable work to make the Creek so as to be good foraging

Altho' it can never be passed only at Low water by reason
of the Great Quantity of water that runs in it

I send you the Bills for the Survey as also the
other Bills - which I have put down in the manner
we was speaking off, as you will see the Expenses and
Time put at the moderate calculation, amounts to more
than the Survey by the Mile -

Expenses in the Survey -

Capt Leopers Bill for Provisions -	£18 : 17 : 0
Crainbearers & Armes Wages -	26 : 3 : 4
Surveyors Wages at 14/- per Day -	33 : 11 : 0
By Boarding with you at Parsons Creek & on the Passage - equal to 12 Days -	1 : 0 : 0
Expenses for Baking &c -	1 : 0 : 9
Total of Expenses -	£81 : 0 : 9

Expenses per Mile -	
123 1/2 Miles at 12/-	£73 : 19 : 0

The Expenses at Calculation you see overrun the
Bill per Mile - tho' I have put the Surveyors wages
per Day 2/- Lower than I was offered at the same
time that I went on this Survey - which would still
make an Addition of several pounds but this I did not
think best to add - as I was fearful the Amount would
swell too high -

Expenses of Exploring to Lake Ontario -

To 2 hand 6 Days each at 4/- per Day -	£2 : 0 : 0
Wages for myself at 10/-	4 : 16
	£7 : 4 : 0
Expenses for Laying the Road out -	
To 3 hand 6 Days each at 4/-	£3 : 12 : 0
To myself Wages	4 : 16
Provisions &c -	£6 : 3 : 9

Recd as per Bill of Capt Godwin	18: 17: 0
Recd in Cash - - - -	40: 0
	£ 58: 17: 0

In - The Large Map I have laid down the worst Swamps, and the Largest But have omitted some small ones - by which you will see that the Country is very swampy in General - & the Streams I have laid down as accurate as could be by only skimming the line one way. The Township has a very bad name in General the people ~~which~~ went on to view it - Represent it sometimes as bad as it is and some seem to be very angry that they put themselves to so much trouble in going to view it and ^{seem} to have satisfaction in spreading the Report of its being a bad Township - as much as possible -

If you should want any more Business done in the surveying line I should be glad to know how lengthy a job it would be that I may arrange my other business accordingly & whatever Business you wish for in that line, - if what I do suits you I should be glad to serve you further in that way.

NB I can give you some considerable Information about the Country which I have obtained from the Indians since I saw ^{you} but I shall defer it till I see you - and you may observe an Indian path on the Road Map which the Indians tell me leads directly to Salmon Creek & which they say will make a good Road.

I am Sir

Your Most Obedt Servt
Ben^r Wright

George Scribe Esq

Pompey Dec 14 '87 96 -

Dear Sir

It is a long time since I have heard any thing from you - not even indeed since 3 months and having just returned from Salmon Creek I thought to write once before I set out myself to see what was the cause of the long silence of my greatest & best of friend -

However it can be nothing but the multiplicity of business which would prevent you from giving me some instructions, as hitherto in that business, under which your good counsel can always best direct -

I have but two days returned from Salmon Creek where I have been to see the completion of the Store - which is now ready for the reception of goods - in Bales &c - being completely enclosed & floors all done -

It is with a considerable difficulty that I could obtain any Workmen - there being so many employed in this part of the country - Have however the satisfaction to announce it ready for the purposes of the North West Overland Company.

I have contracted with James Gould for building a Bridge over the Fish Creek & for the same

200 Dollars & a compensation of 50 Dollars for every year after the first year that the Bridge remains good & passable for Teams - -

Goold has nearly finished the Bridge by the 20th at present he is to pass with a Team with some provisions for Rotterdam of - which they are in great want -

Three other Teams set out 4 days from this with load for Rotterdam - to go through the new Road -

I must beg you to excuse me to Mr Schoppert for not completing No 24 - altho I have good reasons to adduce - I was at work on the town when I heard of the loss of my vessel in October & I left a man to finish it & set out in order to see if the wreck could not be saved so as to be repaired again - The surveyor whom I left was taken sick & also his hands & the town is only about $\frac{3}{4}$ finished - I did not return soon enough for the work to be done this fall I am very sensible that I have done wrong in not having it completed but must beg an excuse & it shall be the first work of the spring -

I have been on No 3 Scribes Patent & have given it up - Have found such attractions of car that it is impossible to work with a lamp on it - I tho't it was

all Ideal when the Surveyor of last year men-
tioned this to me & I never before mentioned to you

I am however fully sensible from my own
trial that it is not possible to work with a compass
to finish these lines -

I shall be in New York soon & shall then I
hope have the pleasure to give you all the particu-
lars of Business & things in this country -

I am Dear Sir

Yours friend &
Humbly

Benz Wright

George Scriba Esq
New York

Carmel Dec 19th 1802

Dear Sir, Yours of the 1st Inst. I have before me concerning
your instructions respecting the 3rd Town and also a Trust
for two hundred and ten Dollars as Adm^r of the Estate of Col^l White
I expect that Potter's Bond and Mortgage will be paid off in
the course of two or 3 months and therefore I think it best
not to send them to you at this time as I suppose you would
not have directed me to forward had you known of the prospect
of payment but should you after the receipt of this wish me
to send them you'll please to signify it in your next -
Obliged to your request I herewith transmit you a sche-
dule of what land I have sold the season past which far
exceeds what I expected the beginning of it - I was this day in-
formed that there was sold by Mr Hamilton on the 2nd Town
lots but the purchase have not been with money
yet - They are from near Etta - I think
to high I Mr Olmstead had come to a resolution respecting
the 19th Town and think it would be best for you to write to
him a decisive letter respecting the same and if he does not
choose to close the business we ought to look out for some
other person as it is absolutely necessary for some person to
do what Mr Olmstead does as he ought if I am right
I think there might have been a number of lots sold the
past - He must go on and trade on the Town other-
wise he can do the business here as well as he could in White
by having some person there to show the land but
it would be much better to have an active Agent on the
tract I should Mr Olmstead or some other person be settled
on the 19th this winter so as to be ready for the next season
and some plan fallen upon to make the road from Carmel
to the 19th Town good I have very little doubt of our sales
the ensuing season exceeding those of the present - How
would it answer to apply to the Legislature for leave to lay
out the Excise Tax on Scribas Patent on Woods in the same?
I should suppose that land of equal quality with Pot's land
in Scribas Patent would be worth at least double what it is there

And I believe there is as good towns in your patents
as Pot's Ham is - My advice in my last was to sell in a
what land you propose selling for lease or short lease & in
my opinion still continues the same - My advice you may
rely always upon having when required and sometimes I
have introduced it upon you without having been requested
to do - This you may depend upon that I make you better
my continued study - Veritas' patent has been in very
bad repute but it begins now to be known that it is a good tract
of country and I believe your towns and the best part of
Patent - Some of the purchasers this season say that when
they saw my advertisements and heard the terms they thought
that the land could not be good from what they had heard
when they considered that it was the best situated tract of
country that was open for sale but was very agreeably
disappointed when they saw it but they could not per-
suade all their acquaintance to believe with them that
it was good on account of the said reasons however some came
on and was well pleased and purchased - Any thing that
I can do in assisting you in making sale of a town ship
you may rely on my service And if you will give me
your price and the town you would sell I will endeavour
to make sale of it I have one company in view at pre-
sent who I believe will purchase if they can have it on
terms as to make it an object and they should not have
purchased elsewhere - I have not heard anything from
Mr Hamilton respecting the salt spring but from what
I heard this day respecting ^{your opinion} it ^{quantity} have no doubt it will
prove valuable the spring is about twelve feet square
when the water boils up - The quantity made from
six quarts by Mr Parkhurst was one pound 20 or 30
~~by weight~~ but the bitterns was not taken out in sup-
posed that it would make a pound of pure salt -
I have written to you to know whether I shall

Pay your Tax in this town and Mexico to which you
have not answered me I am informed you have property
in Mexico consisting of Cattle and Lumber which the
Collector will be obliged agreeable to his oath to take
I should you not elicit your tax to be paid. I
wish to know ^{how} I am to make up my account of
money paid on account of Interest and principal
of those bonds assigned Mr. H. As soon as I receive
your answer on this head I shall close my accounts
for the year and transmit it to you immediately -
It will be proper for Mr. C. and myself to make
a joint statement of the 3^d Farm which we will
do as soon as we can get it together - It will
not be convenient for me to pay you a visit in
the City of New York this winter -

Mr. Moorfield joins me in offering
our best respects to Mrs. Child and in wishing you
Health and happiness -

I remain your friend

and obt. Serv^t

Wm. H. Moorfield

P.S. your Tax in Mexico is \$206.87