

1858

Reily, Butler County Ohio. August 24. 58.

Dear Willard I've received your letter of June the 3<sup>rd</sup> about the first of the present month. I was at that time confined to bed with meagre a kind of rheumatic affection with which I have been afflicted the last four years it attacks do not continue very long however and I am again able to resume the various responsibilities of the kitchen department an occupation for which I hardly believe nature ever intended me ~~if~~ if so would she not have endowed me with an adequate portion of physical capacity. I know you could not surmise a smite within accusation of matrons neglect in their arrangement of the fitness of things were you looking at me at the present moment, I have half a mind to let you guess at my meaning until you come and see but not to leave you in suspense I will tell you. I weigh one hundred and seventy eight lbs. you will readily agree that I am not an active adept in the cooking establishment I am however its only member at present besides girls are an extent of clap among the things that we are in our neighbour at least. We pay half a dollar per day for washing, one dollar and a half is asked per week. I have five boys at home they are all at school today tomorrow and Decatur begins plowing for wheat. Our crops the present season are good. The health of the family generally is excellent a blessing for which I well know we are seldom sufficiently grateful. A good gift not appreciated while possessed, the same might be said perhaps of all earthly enjoyments, but health is the first in the catalogue of terrestrial <sup>comforts</sup> in its absence the world proposes fine bright spots. I had forgotten to except your Aunt Pucilla's health which has been on the decline some time. She resides on the farm with David On more properly speaking David with her. They are not getting along very well. Since the death of your grand Papa he left no will, and the heirs David excepted whose portion was sold by legal process proposed that they should continue to receive the proceeds entirely of the property during your Aunt's life and discharge the debts against the estate which it was thought could be easily accomplished in a short time. They would <sup>not</sup> listen to this proposal wishing a deed of the whole to David's children which the heirs did not consider a reasonable requirement. David having had his portion both prior to, and subsequent

to his Father's death, John Cregmule administered  
There was several unsuccessful efforts made to induce  
the heirs to sell, and finally an amount of over one  
thousand dollars was brought in which forced the sale  
John in the name of his Father became its purchaser  
at half its value, it is so said by judges. All parties  
felt a rebreath and sympathy, none would reject the  
proceedings. It now appears the heirs so called are only  
nominal and inherit nothing. Since the result is known  
They are talking of an investigation.

I have visited Greenville in company with Wilson P  
and Ellen. It is a beautiful looking place dry and  
pleasant enough at this season but inundated with  
mud in the winter. I think Jacob is doing very well  
with his paper, but he talks of turning farmer  
believing it to be an occupation better suited to his  
constitution probably the result of the recent election  
has something to do with this kind of talk. He has just  
purchased a lot with a small dwelling which he is  
enlarging a little at present. He is spending the  
summer there printing and studying by turns Poyne  
is breaking journey work at different offices he was  
at Indianapolis at the time I was at Greenville It is more  
than a year since he and Sewell were at home.

Victor was here in company with Mr. Pottinger.  
I work since he is a railroad agent at Camden  
Ohio and Mr. Caroll left here three days  
since they have just finished an addition to their  
house in Camden which is quite a commodious  
one. Wilson has also completed theirs which is the  
finest looking country residence between Rocky  
and Greenville that is my opinion only and you  
may reasonably conclude that my judgement of  
architectural beauty not very perfect.

You tell us that you think of returning home this fall  
I hope no difficulty may arise to thwart your design  
as such an unexpected and unhappy occurrence would  
afford us more real pleasure than we have experienced  
in your long absence, ~~and~~ each member of the family  
that I have seen since the receipt of your letter are and  
that I should write immediately and encourage  
your return. To see you and your family is the first  
wish of my heart. Yet I tremble at the thought of the  
thousand dangers attending so long a journey dangers  
against which no human foresight can guard.

My most hope and confident reliance for your safe arrival should you really undertake the hazardous journey again in the winter season that protected you in times past. I shall think of you and look for you more than ever for improbable as such an occurrence might appear I have unshaken the belief that I should see you at home again, but do not be influenced by any thing I am saying but reflect wills exercise your own judgment and act accordingly I have always surprised the desire to urge your return home fearing that your compliance in case it should take place might be followed by regret. I have often heard it said that an extensive traveller is seldom satisfied with a permanent location if this is your case you might like Ohio as well as Oregon.

But what do you say Amanda to this stupendous undertaking with little children it will doubtless be a tedious one to some travel but youth health and perseverance can accomplish almost anything I would be most happy to see you and these little grand daughters yet I am not selfish enough to wish you to make any sacrifice for my gratification I will only say that a dutiful son will make a kind husband in any land at all periods of life and under any circumstances in which changeful fortune may please to place him.

Will you be assured to be informed of the Larison family. They left Peily about 10 years since and located in Iowa soon after the discovery of the mines Mr Larison <sup>and</sup> accomp by James his son emigrated to California where he died soon after his arrival his son is still there, the children I believe are all married except little deformed Nancy and two boys whose side with their mother in Iowa, on land I think of their own fame that you remember used to live with us is living in Ohio Also the one who married Phoebe Davis. Dr. Mason I have not seen for some years he has four children by his second wife and is looking very old they say his head quite white. Samuel Danner is doing bad indeed. Ned and Mary you know are married and doing pretty well.

Jacob Griffin resides with his wife and son in Missouri. Sewell Harris visited Delaware the present summer found his mother and sister well. Our Aunt Spruance is still living I received a letter by him from her

Elizabeth Gaston has obtained a divorce and is married again in New York & she still in New York

I also received one from Mrs. Merwin and one from Susan Griffin of Philadelphia whom I suspect you do not remember. Uncle Jacob Stout and Aunt Sarah Cogill are living. The latter I presume is about 100 years old she is your great grand mother's sister and Judge Stout is a brother. There is also several other sisters of the family living.

The boys have returned from school took supper played chicken made all they <sup>could</sup> eat water melon and peaches and finally to my relief got to bed. It is growing late if I think of any thing in the morning I will scribble it down with my steel pen which in its superannuated state can do nothing better. Thursday August 20

The boys are up running ~~around~~ <sup>over</sup> the floor which in its dilapidated condition comes to one ~~in~~ writing in the adjoining room the somewhat annoying capacity of their movements. But they are children so let them alone for childhood should be more happy than it sometimes is. There is a railroad building from the City to intersect some point in Indiana <sup>perhaps</sup> touching our farm there is some <sup>speculation</sup> ~~concern~~ about this end of the line among the stock holders not until the difficulty is settled which must be speedily as the work is progressing under a very energetic contractor can we designate the precise location through our neighbourhood it was commenced last spring and is to be finished ten years from that time. Land is selling along the route in Indiana but little improved at \$10 dollars per acre. That is the sum we are asking for ours, land has advanced in Dupple County since the completion of their road in some places ten dollars on the acre. None has been disposed of in this vicinity lately.

Rebecca Ann Whildam is married to one of Appleton's sons and has been the mother of a daughter. A play has mania a second wife Cary Gilman is following has had a family of five children. You wait until you arise for the ballance of the news, write immediately should you receive this. You are apprised of the great worlds fair now open at New York. Chica has invited me to accompany her and Mrs. C. there and to Delaware. if I go I shall not stop to see what the world is doing but go to my native state which I can reach in forty eight hours from here. Yours in hope E. J. P. W. H. B. S.