

Dear friends

Lycamou Hill Feb. 25th 1856.

We have from time to time intended on answering the last letter from your good Lady, and at one time Elizabeth did commence and was not from some cause ^{not} to finish her Epistle. Therefore to day (altho' it is snowing from the S.E. like vengeance) I have attempted the task with a Steel Pen and a smoke dyed sheet. the best I can procure at present, to make a little statement of matters and things that have transpired since you left Del. & to apologize also for our long absence. It has not been from any cause or from negligence or we often think and have talked of you & promised ourselves to write. In the first place I will say we are all well those of us who are at home. I enjoy probably as good health as any man of my age now in my 61 year. my wifes health is good also. & my children are all healthy & well able to get their living any where. John Thomas & Richard live in Steuben County, N.Y. and are doing well are both married and have one child each Cornelius is also there unmarried Charles helps me Farm he is nearly 22. Mary Eliza & Mariah the girls are yet single and are with us. M.E. has just returned this winter from a visit to her father north the young Mariah is 16. we hire a young white man on the Farm, with that exception we do all our work except a day hand occasionally, I have sold off the fag ends right & left of the Farm & have retained about 200 acres. I raised about 1000 Bushels Corn the last year besides small grain I have been raising good deal lately. & have improved very much the nature of the soil. Lands have advanced considerably in this County in the last 15 years. Thomas & Piers sold his farm for 21000⁰⁰ & Dan Cummings the old Fisher Farm between Jim Town & Myra for 2000⁰⁰ acre. Improved Farms have been selling at that rate in the neighborhood of Myra Piers bot the "Griffin Mills" lately, he is about to move I understand in the neighborhood of Iron Hill near Newark. Spurnum among the Baptists. Sary Cowgill has been dead two years or more & Judge Stout a few months ago also. Mrs. Cowgill left her property all to her Rich Relations. Judge Stout was said to be worth 200000⁰⁰. his son Henry came on from Baltimore to execute the will he is said to be in debt there 100,000⁰⁰ Mary & Sally aunts are both widows & Henry a widower. Sally & Hannah B. still reside in Phil^a. altho' Sally is frequently with Rebecca here who marries J. Thom. Eyskel is with Dr. Sutton at S^t Georges keeps his horse hook his garden &c. Henry is loafing around Brant whenever he can get Rum or our "Main Saw" market ~~at the~~ ^{is} for some people a little difficult to obtain. It has made a great difference already here altho' they yet sell in Md. & Pennsylvania. what can be got by

by Steam Boat Rail Road &c. We have now a Rail Road from from the
New Castle & French Town Intersects about 3 miles from New Castle to Seaford
on the Nantuxoke River. It is finish^d to Dover 35 miles and the Trains are
running daily we hear very plainly the Whistle of the Locomotive to our houses.
It passes Middle Town Charly Town Jim Town South of Tippet house about 300
yards when the Depo is a Road from the Depo through his Farm street to Smyrna
for tracks 80 feet wide with a gravel side path each side for foot passengers -

Tippet got they say 1000 or 1500 from the company and has been offered 15000⁰⁰ for
the Farm which he has refused. The road then runs through the Rees Farm
across the Register Mill pond and Hoffecker. to Dover the Cars now leave Dover
at 5 O'clock P.M. (Phel^{ly} as there is now one road all the way) and return same day
and arrive at about 9 P.M. the road passes just behind the mill now Rees below
below the dam & through the Joe Griffin Farm near the House (now Flemings)

I have now given you a description of the Del R Road as well as, I am all
I will now say something of Smyrna. It has doubled its Inhabitants I presume since
you left. It numbers more than 2000 Inhabitants the quietest busi^{ness} place
In the State of Del to its size. there has been within a few years a great many fine
Buildings raised up mostly brick a large M.E. Church & Presbyterian they have
yet but one Bank. This winter has been the severest here for a number of
years. I think I never knew the staying to last so long at least not since the
Days of Long, Jonathan & myself. about 1800. Dover has improved considerably
since the ~~the~~ Keuman Land was sold into building lots Joe Conroy has built
the finest House in the State on the Old Judge Fisher Property in the Corner
which he took down to the ground he is Rich & I suppose when J. M. Peyton
is dead he will be still Rich he is very bad sick now the papers say at
Washington. Denney holds you recollect bought the old McMullen Farm back of
Dover is dead. died with Cancer. William a Hazle who married one of the girls
is now severely afflicted with the same disease he eats his under lip nearly away
and is in his throat. poor fellow It will certainly be the death of in the end. I forgot
to mention Elen Blackinton she has been dead about two years died in the almshouse
near Wilmington It is been said she come to her right mind in her death sickness

I have written all that I think would be interesting and as I am not acquainted
with your friends here I therefore could give no account. I hope you will not
sew us as we have done but write soon

We Remain as ever yours Truly
Thomas Warren