

Oct 12, 1801

St Clairsville Oct, 12th 1801.

Dr Sir

It is on a subject of the Utmost Importance, I wish

to lay before you, (But I, with many of my fellow Citizen, my Lamont
my ability) But knowing that a free Government is ^{your} greatest pleasure
I rest assured that you will be willing to give a hearing to any
person, or thing, that may appear to be of Use to the Community at
Large. I at the present live in an Infants State, Where I have
Not it in my power to elect for my statesmen, which appears to
be Universally Lamented with my self, The people here appears to be
Much dissatisfied with the proceedings of Arthur St Clair as a Governor
thinking that he rather takes power out of the Legislature respecting
the Division of Counties and placing County seats, he has of late,
Divided Jefferson County and placed the seat of Justice at a place
Contrary to the voice of the people, about one year past the people
sent a petition to him praying the division of the County with about
500 subscribers, and for the seat of Justice of the new County to be placed
at St Clairsville, but this had no effect, he put it off till there
went a petition to him for the seat to be placed on the River
which could not be done without derobing a great part of the
County, as the river was the line between Virginia and the new state
it throwed the seat of Justice on an extremity, and back from the
place there can be no settlement nearer than 8 Miles The people
after the saw the proclamation drew a remonstrance against his proceedings
and out of the County I believe they will get three fourths of the free holders

Marshall Andrew. St. Clair's will Oct. 12. 1801. rec'd Oct. 26.

to sign the Remonstrance against the new seats, this is to be laid before him, and if it has no effect, (as I do not expect it will) what will the consequences be. he will not suffer the Legislature to do any thing in it as he says agreeable to the ordinance of Congress the whole power is invested in him. It is not this County alone he has put into Bondage but several others, I. Sir from the regard to a Republican Government and the wish to promote peace and tranquillity in our infant Country. I Implore you to lay some Method before us for the remedy of the bondage we lie under. I must say that I am very jealous of St. Clair's Zeal towards his Country. If there had been no former evidences of this to me and my Country it might perhaps be too rash an expulcion.

You do not know me, but I must derive the favour of you to write to me what would be the most best way for us to get quit of our grievance. Whether it would be of any use for us to lay the Business before Congress or not, or what steps might appear most prudent. If it was a thing consistent with your will to remove him from his office I think it would be a pleasing thing to the people he rules over, as I would hope his Successor would join in favour of a Republican Government.

If you think proper to write to me you will please to direct to Andrew Marshall, post Master St. Clairville N.W. Territory.

I am Sir with due respects your most obedient
and humble servant

Thos Jefferson
President of the U.S.

Andrew Marshall