

Dear Sir

Monkicello Nov. 9. 13.

You have heretofore been apprised of a claim of Col^o Monroe to a corner of your tract of land on the top of the mountain, which he supposes included within the lines of his prior deed. some years ago he mentioned this to me; but as Mr Carter had conducted your survey in person, I imagined Col^o Monroe had been illy informed, and as he never repeated the thing to me, I presumed he had become satisfied. on hearing however of the sale to Higgenbotham, when he was here in Sep. he made his claim formally to him, who communicated it to me. I immediately called on Col^o Monroe on the subject. he explained the information on which he supposed we had run on his lines, but without knowing the fact. we agreed at once that a surveyor should be employed to run the lines of his deed (of which he gave me a copy) that we would both desire the attendance of Mr Carter, who would be ultimately responsible to you, and so settle the thing at once. I wrote to Mr Carter, desiring him to fix any day he pleased, before this present date, and we would all attend with him. Col^o Monroe wrote also. I had hoped thus to inform you of ^{the renewal of the claim and} its final settlement at the same time. but I have no answer from Mr Carter. I have therefore this day written to him again, informing him that I shall set out to Bedford on the 17th shall be absent a month, and requesting him to fix a day as soon after that as he can, and to attend. Col^o Monroe guesses there may be about 30 acres in question; but it is a mere guess. if it proves true, the price you were to receive for it will be to be deducted from the bonds, and Mr Carter will have to refund to you what he received and interest, which will probably leave on you a loss of about a dollar an acre. I will not suffer it to rest until it is finally and justly settled, & will accompany the surveyor on the lines.

From the fork of James river, & the falls of the other rivers upwards

W. Short esq.

and Westwardly, we have had the most calamitous year ever seen since 1755. it began with the blockade, so that the fine crops of the last year, made in these upper parts, which could not be at market till after Christmas, were shut up by that and lost their sale. after keeping my flour till the approach of the new harvest, I was obliged to sell it lest it should spoil on my hands, at a price which netted me only 47. cents a bushel for my wheat, of course a total sacrifice. in the year 1755. it never rained from April to Nov. ~~and~~ there was not bread enough to eat, & many died of famine. this year, in these upper regions, we had not a single rain from Apr. 16. to Sep. 20. say 5. months, except a slight shower in May. the wheat was killed by the drought as dead as the leaves of the trees now are. the stems fell before the scythe without being cut, & the little grain in the head shattered on the ground. from 500. a. sowed here, I have not got in 1500. bushels, not three times the seed. our corn has suffered equally. from 270. acres planted, and which in common years would have yielded me from 800. to 1000 barrels, I shall not get a barrel an acre, and a great portion of that will be that are called nubbings, being half formed ears with little grain on them. corn consequently starts with us at $3\frac{1}{2}$ D. and being the principal food of our laborers, it's purchase will be a heavy tax. I am told the drought has been equally fatal as far as Kentucky. there have been a few local exceptions here from small bits of clouds accidentally passing over some farms, should the little wheat we have made be shut up by a continuance of the blockade thro' the winter, we shall be absolutely bankrupt, by the loss of two successive crops. this is really the case for exclaiming 'O fortunati mercatores!'

I found in Correa every thing good and valuable as you had notified me. the only circumstance of regret was the necessity of parting with him. what a misfortune that we cannot liberalize our legislators so far as to

found a good academical institution. Wm. & Mary college, removed to
a central and healthy part of our state, it's funds enlarged and consti-
-tion amended, with such a man as Correa for it's president instead of
the simpleton Brocken, would afford a comfortable ~~look~~^{look} into futurity.
but there is something in the ⁱⁿconstitution of our legislatures which does not
permit a choice of the best wood for that fabric. a parcel of petty foggery
academies too, as they presume to call themselves, with one or two masters,
barely able to teach the rudiments of Latin, and the use of the chain & compass,
fill us with Blackstone lawyers and Sangrado doctors, sufficient to starve
out real science, which is accordingly totally extinct in this state. But
war, famine, and ignorance are too much for the subject of one letter.
affectionate & respectful salutations therefore.

W. Jefferson

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[Faint, mostly illegible handwriting covering the page, likely bleed-through from the reverse side. The text is difficult to decipher but appears to be a letter or a journal entry.]