

State of Arkansas Crawford County July 5<sup>th</sup> 1840

Dear Sir I hav at las taken up my pen to drop you a few lines in reply to yours which I received in due time. One of the date of 20 of March the other 29 of May last and was glad to hear from my friends in that quarter and should have answered them sooner but wanted to determin in my mind whether I could say I would pay you a vissett this summer or not which I cannot yet fully determined on yet. I have been talking of trying to come and bring Betsey, William and Sarah to wandr the latter part of summer but wil not say positively that we wil come, there being several obstacles in the way. Our land comes in market on 27 of this month which I must attend to and the grate scarcity of the right kind of money in this country renders it difficult to save land here as none but hard money wil do. These lines leaves us in toltable helth at preasant. Our prospects is not verry good for crops this season owing to the grate quantity of rane last spring tho I have never known verry sorry crops in the 7 years that I have lived in this county and have never known the peach crop to fale in that time. Christopher was married last May a year ago and lives with me this year and is in good helth. He and his wife Mary was married 3 years ago on tomorrow and lives in 2 miles of us and is wel has one child and a prospect for another. Polliticks runs verry high here more so than I ever saw them in my part of the country tho it is high time for the people to begin to look out and try to change the administration which I hope wil take place in our next president tho I fear our state wil go for Vanburen there being so many office houlders here tho we are trying to do what we can in the good caus of Reform. I was glad to hear mother had given up the perplexities of this life so far as to spend the remainder of her days with her children and as it respects a division of fathers property I have nothing to say. Suit your selvs and you wil suit me. I received a letter from bro William dated on 22 of March last who informed me our friends was in helth in Virginia but seemed to think a little hard of the manner in which mother had left the conserns of the estate tho I know nothing

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nor do I care but verry little on the subject. I have gotten but verry little since farthers death nor do I ever expect to get any thing more tho I am in hopes I shall be able to get what wil do me the ballance of my life by using the proper industry. If we should get off to your country we wil be there by the 15 of September if not you need not look for us any later. Inform my friends of our helth amongst you and I should be glad to receive a letter from any of them that feels friendly disposed at any time. I should be glad to hear from bro Thomas in particular how he is getting along as he was not in very good helth when I heard from him. I must not close this Epistle without giving you a small sketch of our yesterdays selebration of the 4. We met at Vanburen our county seat a flourishing town on the Arkansas 8 miles from my hous agreeable to previous arrangements when we had a splendid barbacue prepared and after a verry appropriate prare we had the declaration of independence red and a splendid oration deliverd and 36 rounds of cannon with many appropriate toasts and things wound up in good order. Nothing more but remain your friend and wel wisher.

David Shepherd