

Respected Sir

I am herein about to make some request to you, that if you see fit to comply with, will oblige me extremely and I believe will be of no disadvantage to yourself & I am in hopes will strike your mind. Sir I have never been so happy as to contract the least acquaintance with yourself. and therefore can give but a slight guess, what effect my proposals will have with you. Was your honoured Father living from the acquaintance I had with him and the good understanding & the perfect friendship he ever manifested towards me & my sons at De Kalb I should not hesitate a moment about proceeding with him in my wishes. until I found out upon trial that I was mistaken.

What I wish to be obliged in by you is this. My two sons at De Kalb are owing money to you for their land. The war has put such a stand to business there, that has entirely frustrated their plans of clearing their land & making profits of their ashes and other articles, which they would have had to spare. Which was entirely stopped by the foolish, expensive and unnecessary unjust war & other simple restrictive measures. & now likely heavy taxes will take place, and the money be hoarded up by monied speculators. produce cheap & so many difficulties taking place that I fear that they will never be able to pay you up & get their land clear from the mortgage especially my youngest son.

So much money on interest, hard times & a large family of small children to support. Not able to help him any. that I fear the interest will eat him out. If his land was paid for, I would go forward & assist him in building a grist mill a house & help about clearing up his farm. But as circumstances now is I dare not build there. We have done too much already to lose.

He seems to have courage & says he intends to pay for it yet. But for my part it looks dark to me and I shall not venture to build on it unless I was able to first clear the farm from the mortgage & then help him to build which I am not able to do without selling some land I have here. And the times seems to be so dull & money getting to be so little in circulation that I don't know as I could sell at this time for half the real value.

I have, it is allowed by all that is acquainted with the place, the handsomest lot in this little village of ten acres & the best situated. It being in the corner facing the Main Street through the village to the south & another road to the East. Quite a traveled road leading out into Exeter and so out into Richfield Turnpike & away to Springfield & with a good new house on it, with a little more finishing, quite convenient for a tavern. A good stand for a Country Trader. or a mechanic. I should say a Taylor as we have almost every other kind of mechanic nearby. We have a Blacksmith, a Tanner-currer & Shoe maker, two joiners, a house carpenter, a mason & Doctor, a large school house. (Which is made use of for a meeting house also) and a potash & store all in plain sight & NEARBY ALSO THREE GRIST MILLS, THREE SAWMILLS, TWO FULLING mills nearby some of them in sight. A large cotton factory going up which is to be in operation next Sept. Which would be in sight of my house if a few trees was cut away. Water brought in logs from an excellent spring to the door & the lot well fenced with rails and boards.

And another ten acres within sight of the former well covered with select? fine wood. Which if carefully managed will serve for fuel for the fire a no. of years. Which I want you to take of me & allow me a fair price for it & let it go to pay for Russell's land. Then we could go forward and build Mills & a house on

our own land without fear of losing them & land together. I have also a small farm within about half a mile of the lot in the village of one hundred acres and is allow I believe to be about as good a farm of the same No. of acres as any in this Town. It being well calculated one part very good grazing land. The other side the road good warm free plow land & as good for wheat -corn. flax and other produce I believe as any other farm in the town having a good supply of wood on it which is getting to be a valuable article here. Also as well interspersed I dare say with good pure water as any place you can find in the county. A young orchard on it beginning to bear clear. After supplying apples by two families last fall & saving some for winter. We made two barrels of cider. A very good barn on it well finished with a granary in it. A small milk or cheese house, two small log houses & other small out buildings , not of any great value, A good snug place on it.

If it should take your mind I should likewise be glad to let you have the farm also. They will both rent well until you can have a chance to sell them and there being so near this village, mills of every kind. The cotton factory & etc. There is no doubt with me but they will raise in value faster than the interest of the money would gain, that they would cost you. I want to see my son's clear of debt and to help them what I can before I die and what I do I must do soon for it is getting late in the afternoon with me being almost three score years & two if you would conclude to take both the farm & lots at a fair price you shall be paid what both my sons owes for their land. & I will take securities for the remainder an some good men up there that can pay me along as we want it & not distressing them. Now sir I wish to be excused for troubling you with this long statement & request and consider on it and oblige me if you can & give me your answer in writing as soon as may be convenient as I am anxious to know what I am going to count on. and you greatly oblige Sir .

Your most humble servant,

David Goff

Burlington Mar. 20th 1815

Isaac Cooper Esquire

N.B.

I sincerely congratulate you on the return of peace again, but I can't say as some of our Democrats does that we have humbled Great Britain & have gained privileges by the war to amply compensate for all the blood & treasure the war has cost us. I hope we may be vigilant at the ???? let it on and gain our election for representatives, senators & congress. This looks to me to be an important election & we ought to be wise? & doing.