

De Kalb, May 30th 1815

Dear Sir,

I take the liberty of dropping you a private letter upon the interests of De Kalb, not immediately relating to the other Proprietors. However you may view it. I feel satisfied of the propriety of my letter.

Benedict in his business for a few years past, has given the settlers an unlimited credit & thus induced many industrious men to become indebted to him, who might have remained independent. You are sensible that he is now much involved & I believe you are his principal creditor. What ever may have been his character. He is now little able of himself to rescue his property or provide anything permanent for his family. As his creditors press him, he in his turn calls loudly upon the Townspeople: & there are several cases before me of the most respectable men & those indeed who give a character to the place, which will require desetious? management to save from ruin. The men I need not mention. I shall be happy if I can save them.

Benedict is preparing to visit you. It will be important to the town that you understand his situation. He has obligations & judgments against many here, which if they fall into the hands of a stranger will much distress us. And to be prompt in speaking, it is thought he is not able to manage his property to any advantage. If you could command his property and free his family of distress, & take the debts of our responsible Townsmen you will much promote the interests of the place.

I only suggest, & if you think me indiscrete excuse me.

Believe me dear sir yours with respect,
John Fine

Isaac Cooper
Cooperstown