

De Kalb, December 25, 1816

Dear Sir

You have undoubtedly expected I should have written you before this but it took a long time to get my new habitation comfortable and provide for the winter & I have even now looked but partially into your interest here. Mr. Fine appeared to be disappointed in your letter to him & said you ought to have given him notice that you were about to transfer the agency. I told him that he had the notice in the spring by your brother Saml not only that he engaged to give up the whole agency this winter & would like to have me take it. I find by his books that your family are considerably indebted to him & the other proprietors & he declines giving up the papers until his accounts are settled. Having not any power to take them, I have been obliged to go to the village (Ogdensburg) for all the information I can get on the subject which you will see on the short day not much could be done .

The mills have undergone considerable repairs & were almost done. Mr. Fine stopped them where they were when I came on & they are in quite an open situation. The Esquire, your uncle, is very much dissatisfied & says he does not see why the Mills should be left unfinished & the work at the Hotel still go forward in which considerable alterations have been made & am still making. If I mistake not, your brother James (*Fenimore*) has told me that, the hotel & premises belonged to your family exclusively. If this is true I should like to know it.

We was gladly received by the settlers & they did all they could to make us comfortable. I have got acquainted with many of them who appear to be industrious steady worthy People.

While I am writing give me the liberty to suggest a few ideas which I think will be of consequence to the Proprietors & to the settlers.. that is for instance a man want to buy 100 acres of land. Now if you will give him the privilege of paying for this land say 10 or 15 or 20 bushels of wheat or stock of some kind yearly he will readily do it & this property will all turn into cash in the course of a year . Which will in <my opinion> be more advantageous to the Proprietors & settlers than the contracts which have been made. I have many things to write but hoping to see you this winter I'll not trust them to ink and paper .

Yours Seth Pomeroy