

Williamstown, June the 13th, 1804

Dear Sir (Andrew McCollom),

You no doubt perceive that I am uneasy at your conduct. The cause is for the following reasons:

1st Because it is clear beyond a doubt that you are taking to drinking to excess.

Which will confuse your ideas destroy your good name and injure me in my arrangements.

2nd Because from that cause solely you had that spell of derangement in your mind.

3rd Because you have contrary to my orders expressly declared over and over again not to meddle with my things, squandered my shingles, boards and property by which I am greatly put back in the building of the mills so necessary to the growth and happiness of the settlement.

4th Because you have assumed to take to yourself my business without the shadow of orders and sent men totally ignorant of the art of surveying to run and measure lines already done by able and skillful surveyors. And have caused false lines to be run and marked materially changing the whole patent.

5th Because you have took 20 barrels of flour from my store to pay debts you have contracted with Mr. Rich .

6th Because you have made people pay \$5 for filling up my blank deeds etc. in my absence, when you knew my established price was \$3 paper included.

7th Because you treat the settlers with haughtiness and imperiousness that ill becomes a very poor encumbered young man especially that aged woman Pheby Cook. Calling her damned old hag that you would kick her into the river etc.. when her words and advice were for your good and her conduct highly proper.

8th Because you take no care to lay up money to pay me for the money advanced you for your education, nor even the interest which is a debt of honor.

9th Because you have got me to be security for your library of law books as per invoice and take not favor(?) to pay it. Leaving it for me to do which shows want of a convenient mind.

All which my dear sir I ascribe to your amusing yourself with liquor. For I believe you are by nature an honest man. But for the above reasons my confidence is shaken and in future you are to understand that no further trust than what is here set down is allowed by me until you refrain from the practice alluded to. Which you may prevent. That is all law business that I want you may do in and about this settlement. All surveying that the settlers or myself may want done. You are my choice to do it but in person!

I hope you will not take this plain statement amiss as I declare I have nothing but your good and my own safety in view.

Yours with sober regard, Wm. Cooper