

De Kalb January 10, 1806

Dear Sir,

Enclosed is the petition for building the bridges. On presenting the petition to the inhabitants of Cambray; I was greatly surprised to find Doct Townsend opposed to it. He would not sign it himself & by his influence prevented any of his settlers signing it. His opinion of it was that it was premature.

He informed me that if it went forward should use his influence with a number of influential members of the legislature, with whom he was well acquainted, to oppose it. The sum for his settlement he says is too small; besides he thinks that by postponing it and petitioning alone, his settlement will shortly be enabled to procure 1500 or 2000 dollars to assist him in making his bridge and roads thro his town.

Had he been friendly to the petition I should have given it to Mr. Kent. On mature reflection I thought it most advisable to send it to you Sir. Knowing that General Morris and yourself are on intimate footing, and believe should you have an opportunity to converse with him that he would assist you getting the grant, and also knowing Townsend to be a mere cipher in Morris's business. I send it to you to do with it as you in your good judgment and wisdom shall think best.

I some time since wrote you that Dimock had been cast away on Lake Ontario with our goods on board the boat. Immediately after hearing of the misfortune went out to Sandy Creek where the disaster happened. There was property to a large amount on board the boat and property to a considerable amount was lost. We have lost about \$250 worth the rest is saved and in our store. As yet I enjoy unusual good health. Hoping we shall have the pleasure of seeing you this winter.

I subscribe myself
Yours sincerely,
Th. B. Benedict

Hon. William Cooper