Cooperstown, December 30th 1808

Albert Galletine Esquire

Sir, you may think it strange that I should address you on a subject relative to my own private concerns. But as our public affairs stand at present-I have concluded to inform you that I am about to move a quantity of provisions to a part(replaced by word quarter) of this state that may create suspicion. For five years past I have been employed in forming a very large settlement in the county of St. Lawrence on the margin of the United States. To this settlement I have annually sent provisions without the public taking any notice of it other than as a thing of course. The stagnation of trade in the interior of the state has multiplied settlers near the Canada lines misery so much so that a partial famine will be experienced among the new settlements if those interested in their advancement do not ,while the waters are frozen and the sleighing continuous ,forward supplies. I have many hundreds to aid in their infant state. To whom in the next month I shall send c/15d barrels of pork, a quantity of flour, a load of flax and a load of footweels? . All of which is made on my own farms in Otsego and are solely intended to feed and facilitate my own settlers in St. Lawrence say 150 miles distant. At other times this would be justly approved, but this settlement being situated as it is and the contempt I have of being suspected is the cause and must be my excuse for this communication.

The original letter is in the Cooper archives at Hartwick College. It is unsigned but believed to have been written by Judge Cooper.