

from Davis
1993
Cragmole

see the first 15th Wolfe
1856
not orig. Wolfe
to W.A. Wolfe

December 26th 1836.

Dear Brother,

Newport, October 1st we went on board the steamboat John Jay ..by the Lake Erie Canal, boat towed by a pair of ^{two} horses to Buffalo 363 miles, fare 12 cents per mile, to Albany 4 hundred wooden bridges on it very dangerous. Lake Erie River Mississippi until we land in ~~at~~ convenient to Canton safe thank God on November 7th. We stood great danger in Lake Michigan. The Captain cast anchor several nights. Brother Patrick, we suffered a great deal more than you are aware during the long voyage from Ireland to Monticello. Lake Erie River Mississippi are the finest I saw in America. Inquired for information in several companies' offices where maps of the States were kept but they could not give me any good information. We were very successful in making out our places of destination thank God. The D(distance) from New York to Monticello ^{is} are thousand five hundred miles our expenses amounted to about 1001,0 Dollars. Breakfast, Dinner, Supper are provided on board at 25 cents per person with every delicacy the season can afford. You can please yourself about taking them, America, a man may go on board the steamboat at any hour for a D, he may want go shore. Travelling is very expensive in America. Brother Patrick, our Brother Jas. Wolfe lived in Virginia - 12 years he kept establishments instructing all the nobility until he made (a power of money) he left it and came to live County Missouri D 12 hundred miles. He bought this Estate in the land office in Betroyat D 28 miles, 3 years ago, of the government of the United States at Dollar quarter per acre. It is first rate land, timber oak and water and trained lime-stone quarry on it - two eighties 2 forties jambed up with the town. I expect to have the county seat built on one of these 40 which would make it most valuable. The county roads passed through there, 240 acres from town and by my house. Three hundred miles long was repaired. I got a lawyer's opinion on my brother's ^{assignment} assignment, (ment) he gave it as his opinion that James Wolfe's Brothers were equally entitled to his Estate provided he made no will or testam-ment. But the assignments he made, hold it for us both. He advises me to settle on that at once, so I did. I contracted with a joiner to build one wooden house for me and that would pay him what ~~...~~ Respectable man of the neighbourhood would award for him for his work so he complied, built wearing for the agreement. 20 dollars.

I built in Section 7 the south half of section 7 containing 340 acres. It lies two miles (from) Monticello. 50 acres of clean from wood by my house, fit for cultivation, 2 yoke (y) oxen would plough it. It is very writch (?rich) there is no more timber on it than what is necessary. I intend to till this much at once her acre would produce 25 bushels of wheat, 80 lb wt to the bushel corn, 40 bushels to the acre, 70 lb wt. to the bushel wd. produce acre of potatoes three hundred bushels 15 with ^{acres} square corn 6 feet high ^{round} I can stick it produces thousand ^{is} long-bought suit of clothes in Liverpool ^{cost} last? for the people fed their stock with it in ^{winter} of the ^{of} 3.12.

Our brother James board in Reice's? is house for 3 months. D. 1 mile of this farm where I built. He intended to build on it four ^{he} chopped some timber his hands blistered, he looked for men on the hire but he could not find any man to board them he had to give up his building after this. Reice wife she came with him. Without much reason Reice gave him great abuse. He left the house and went to board at one Smith to Monticello, the same day, after he going to, he discovered his trunk broken and he robbed of the sum of 70 Dollars by a black domestic in Reice's house, he threatened Reice by law but in a short ^{time} he got him this money. My brother meeting these disappointments which caused him to leave his Estate and go to ^{Monticello} ^{he} was well known four years ago the County seat was located Monticello 40 houses, Court House, 5 rich chaps goods of every description, 3 Public houses, Bottles full of all sorts liquors, 2 law offices, Post Office, 2 medical doctors, 2 joiners, 1 Smith, 1 ^{There is} (a) Bank expected. The respectable people of Monticello are kind to me. They ask me how do I like the County Seat situation of the State. I tell them that I like it good considering the short time it has been applied it will be improved and the State the people are settling every year. It is a new State very productive. Brother Pat, I have made a vow not to drink in Monticello except a little in my own house. I would feel very glad that you would do the same. It is the ruin of man to get drunk. Take care of your health you know how much your brothers and sisters need you that God may spare you to them and your good wife. We have left you our father's property I would expect that you could live respectably. I count you happy as living amongst your friends Tim. Keep your young Son, Maurice, at school regular. His good mother child I would be glad to hear from my brother, Maurice, we feel lonesome here. Ellen Harnett would be glad ^{to hear} from her mother, Brothers, Sisters Child. We enjoy good health at present thank God, except what you knew but I am much better. I wrote you from Newport. Margaret stopped in New York thinking that her uncle James would send for

her (she) would wish to know whether you have built your new house and whether you are making good sale of the ^{callin} callin? whether you have kept contracts you have the interest if you avail yourself of it and if you live to any age.

Dear Uncle Brother Patt R. Father Tim Harnett (& John Forde I have a great grievance to let you know Brother James Wolfe died in the state of Mississippi the first year he went to ?Natchez The fine learned man. There is nothing grieves Richard more than to say that we cant see, hear or find our brother alive on his Estate after the bold stroke we made in going to him five thousand miles from home. If God would spare him to us, we would live happy. If you should live would not forget Jas Richardson, Dear uncle B Patt, I never felt your advise so much wanting as at present. I would wish to hear from you whether I should sell this Estate and go home for happy is the man that can live at home among his friends. This Estate is considered to be worth nine thousand Dollars at present - I intend to sell 40 acres to improve my farm, to buy some cows, yoke, oxen, cart and horses, some pigs. They feed and fatten in the wastes at the time of the *harvest* ~~stest~~. I don't know but that I should go home to Ireland to get myself qualified to this Estate. Mr. Richardson told me that his opinion that Richard Ellen evidence would do to ascertain that I was Jas Wolfe B and that he himself would prove his handwriting. When we arrived at Monticello we board in the town 3 weeks. Our bill amounted to twenty Dollars. Inquired of the Innkeeper Mr. Gregshy, who was Jas Wolfe's agent to this Estate in Monticello. He told me Jas Richardson was, I went to his house immediately and asked him where was my brother Jas Wolfe or how long ago since he had heard from him. He told me that he did not hear from him since he sent him the Power of Attorney from the Western County to take care of the Estate 2 years ago. It is surprising to me, said he, if your Brother would be alive, but that he would have written to me in so long a time. I advertised him in the papers. The Power of Attorney was not sufficient without the Chief Magistrate being signed to it. The people of Monticello ^{Ch~~---t~~?} to the value of 100 Dollars of his timber they came to me and owned to the trespass they had done. I told them that they broke the law and that I would bring them to an amount, the reason they gave me that it was suspected that James Wolfe was dead and that he had no heir to the Estate and that it would be sold out. Mr. Richardson told me that Dr. Sloan, who lives 28 miles below Monticello Ba- ng an amount of his D Monticello I went at once to Mr. Sloan's house. I asked him did he know anything for me concerning my brother's death. I do, said he to me, I travelled through different states in the Western Country in last Spring. In my travelling through the States of Mississippi, I was told that James Wolfe died that he had land (this is blotted)

In his trunk of Estate that he bought, near Monticello.

I make no doc? (blotted) of his said he. This gentleman was well acquainted with me/ Brother (blotted) I would go at once to the State of Mississippi to make an inquiry after my Brother but the River Mississippi freezes up in Winter.

I wrote 3 letters at this Dr. house in Colmyre to different people in the State of Mississippi requesting them to make an inquiry after my Brother, to advertise him in the papers and that I would make them a compensation for their trouble. Dr. Sloan told me that he would go to the Western Country in Spring and that he would give me every assistance. In his pain to make out my Brother or his effects or his money, if we get it, or if he made any property. It was supposed that he had from one thousand to two thousand Dollars Mr. Richardson bought 7 hundred of Cork 6 Dollars per hundred 4D.

If Michael nephew John Harnett would come to me I would give them ? a living during their life ? would do very good here. If I go home I will employ Michael Sheehy and some young labouring men, women and pay their fare to Monticello if they will have the courage to come with me this good place for labouring men Dollar quarter Day Board(?) as are very scarce here. The America are knowing of well-spoken people. They sit to a comfortable Breakfast, Dinner, Supper, Bread, Tea, Meat, Vegetables regular. They are all marksmen, keep arms regular, they side as good horses as —

they are in numbers in Monticello every day James Richardson wife are my chief friends here. He is acting the same as agent for me. He has pledged himself to do me justice, is considered respectable and a man of good experience he is surprised that I did not change my condition before I left Ireland he knows what D. O'Connell is doing in Ireland. The Black People are very numerous in South. Most of them - love cooking. They are employed in all vessels on Sea.

They are civilized then are table man/woman emigrating to America every year from Ireland, England and Scotland. Here there is no priest nearer than St. Louis, D. two hundred miles to the west of Monticello on the brink of the River Mississippi. This hurts our feeling very much. The people of my

Monticello buy their goods in bulk D. 12 miles. American prairies 20 miles long 20 miles broad.

No humbug, no want price Dollar quarter per our Monticello corn, mill Dis. 2 miles. This is considered (to be) of a good climate but extremely cold in Winter, Frost & Snow continues until the first of April, no rain except the month of April and May, some days are very fine. The people subject to many complaints here. No man works the throughout America ?

are worked and in numbers tackled in ploughing the Prairies. A man has great difficulty to set up here in the beginning no less than four hundred Dollars would do but if a man gets settled he is a gentleman for life. I don't know what trouble I may be put to yet. Let no man attempt to come here until you receive another letter from me. I will administer on this Estate with James Richardson, the law requires it. (Direct your letter to me, Lewis County, Missouri, Monticello, the County Seat of Lewis County.

John Wolfe.

mailed to his brother Pattr Wolfe
Jan. 1837
Cataloe (sp?)
abbey feail,
Co. of Limerick, Ireland

1938 N.B. Sean Wolfe of Limerick brought me a copy of the original of this letter, written in elegant (but unreadable) Spencerian script. Peas's sister-in-law, a Mercy Keen, painstakingly deciphered it and typed this.