

Lisbon Farm March 1st/73

Dear Andrew

I wrote a letter and directed it to the "Attorney in the Fenwick affair" Chrisfield, Md. and received the inclosed reply. In the list of post offices I saw that they give the postmaster 120\$ per an for his services in that place. and there could be but few lawyers in the place.

In my letter to them I said that Combs & Downs had written to me last July that they had been imployed by said Attorney. to procure evidence of the heirs of Ignatius. and there in the midst of the Fenwicks they had not obtained any positive evidence of one heirship in all this time. & inquire how long it was to drag on in this way.

I have made no promises to sign any agreement for a share. let alone giving a promise of signing a power of Attorney for a total stranger to collect the funds from said "hidden succession."

But I thought it would be well to know the name of the Attorney who had got the letter directed to Cherryfield ^{and} and see what he would say on the subject. It amounts to this that as Combs & Downs said their fee was to small it is evident that the fee has been increased as Hodson expects more speed.

And it is evident that the Frenchman who wants to make a bargain with the heirs for a share for revealing & obtaining the succession wants to be assured that they are all hunted up to sign the agreement to prevent a future claim on him.

And does it not prove that these lawyers are satisfied as to the claim being of some value. Hodson to make the agreement to pay Combs & Downs. or they to accept his promises, or perhaps money.

I thank you for writing to merchants in Bordeaux. And as I think over it I feel that my fathers uncle Joseph must have had an other child beside Columbus. And as Sams written at the time he was in Bordeaux, says that Joseph lived separate from his wife for many years.

I have read over the private journal of Aaron Burr. who visited Mrs Fenwick the wife of the American consul at Bordeaux & in Paris speaks of her prettyness. gayety and his admization of her. but does not mention any children. And it was evident that she was living in great affluance at that time. I think that a Mr Bontemp I met a number of years since. who speaks of her great wealth in her own right. I feel satisfied that I have heard of it but cannot fix upon the source that I received it from.

I see from Sams letter to me from Bordeaux Mr Rambaud told him that a man by the name of Basquiat was Columbus cousin on his mothers side. and being the only one know to be related had been in possession of Columbus property. This being the case Rambaud could not have know of any one nearer to Columbus. therefore there was no known brother or sister. no heir of Ignatius of Cherryfields Md known to Rambeaud. but us. But the unknown that is to be revealed could not have died before Columbus or Columbus would have heired from him. No, we cannot account for it from any information we have. and how long should we wait. or refuse to make a agreement with the revealer. will be a question for us to decide upon in the course of a month or two at farthest I suppose.

Yours truly

James A Fenwick

Cranberries are dull of sale could I have had buildings at the Bog. to have prepared them for market. they would have got of sooner. and I should have done better with them.