

Hickman or Mills Point Dec 7th 1845 (Ky.)

Dear Uncle

I take this rainy day as an opportunity to write to you what I am doing in these back woods. I arrived at this place last Tuesday night and Mr Atwood introduced me to Major Davis who resides but a short distance from my land and I rode out to his place with him the next day. I remained at his house two nights and Mr Caldwell's one night and took dinner at Dr Applegates' a person who come from near Shell Town N.J. I found them all very hospitable indeed. and with Mr s Davis & Caldwell I rode over the 2500 acre tract which is very fine land and has several little farm opened on it. some of them have been opened 8 or 10 years long enough to pay the labourer for all he has done to it and they are all anxious to purchase but none of them want to pay cash. but to pay by Bianular instalments which is the most universal rule in this country. and I think from all I hear that the Land could not be sold for a Cash payment without sacrificeing a considerable money. Caldwell tells me that a man can gurdel the trees and raise 50 bushels of corn to the acre an a crop of tobacco. and have money enough from his first crop to live and pay his first installment. I find the country is improveing very fast. and it suffers very much on account of being held in tract so large that the labouring man cannot get hold of them. The products of the county are corn, tobacco & wheat. and grass does fine when they sow it. they cultivate cotton in the neighbouring counties, but in Obion it is cultivated but little. on account of the soil being more of a clay. and it is to far north to do well on such a soil. I intend sending you a newspaper with this letter which gives some discription of this place. you will see mentioned in it the Reelsfoot lake which divides the county of Obion in two parts. and one of my tracts of lands lays on the east side of this lake beyond the hilley ground that is next the Lake. and to get from one to the other I had to come to this place to get round the head of the lake. and I wish tomorrow to visit the 1900 acre tract on the river bottom 30 miles from this place which the owner of this hotell. who is a property holder that way says is worth 10\$ per acre. and is valuable for the Cypress & Ash timber that is upon it. also for the fertility of its soi. which (he says) is above the great floods of the river. every person out this way knows my land and call it the Thursby land. I think it best to establish an agent here to sell the 2500 acre tract in small pieces. but the 1900 acre tract I shall hold as yet. for it must certainly in a very short time become very valuable.

The river is now very low and full of ice. but I shall start home the latter part of this week by stage. if I can get through my business. I have not heard from home yet. I remain yours as ever

James A Fenwick

N.B. not a word about Gold Mine Lands. no person knows any thing about them

J.A.F. (on outside of letter)