

Louisville (Ky.) Dec 27th 1845

Dear Uncle

I wrote to you once since I left during my stay at Mills Point when I wrote I think I had only seen one tract of my lands with which I was much pleased. the boundary lines well marked and every thing as it should be about it. except that the taxes had not been paid last year. but understanding that the 1900 acre tract had been but partially or perhaps never surveyed. I procured the county surveyer. and he, Major Davis. who is now my agent & myself. went down and surveyed it. The beginning corner makes a call for the oldest established corner on the bottom. I lose 60 or 70 acres by one corner coming into the lake and I include a 175 acre tract which another man claims but as my entry & Grant are the oldest I have the best right. besides his grant calls for my east boundary line as his west boundary. and if he goes that far. he must be in the lake. I also found one fellow with a small farm (on) it to whom I gave a lease. The tract is a ridge of cane land extending east & west with a strip of dry cypress break of some three or four hundred yards wide on either side. and is all except a few acres entirely above the highest flowing of the Mississippi. and was valued for taxes at 1400\$. but it is worth about 5 dollars per acre. and the wood is worth something for to sell to the steam boats. I have come to this conclusion that one of my tracts is worth 5000\$ dollars and the other from 7 to 8000 dollars but it would be hard to make sale of them at any price in a body. and for that reason I appointed Major James Daves esq. agent to divide and sell the 2500 acre tract. and there are a number of Virginians in the country to purchase land who no doubt will be purchasers.

After attending to all my business. I got on a steamboat bound for this place. but after getting about 40 miles of Shawnee Town we had to go back to the mouth of Cumberland river on account of the ice in the river. I then took a boat for Nashville to meet the stages to this place. and when I got there the stages were full a number of days ahead. so that I could not procure anything but an outside seat. and during the passage. the rain snow & sleet & cold brought on a violent attack of looseness of my bowels. and I was obliged to stop at a little country house 65 miles from this place. and after spending several days there I got well enough to come on to this place. where for two reasons I shall have to stay several days the one to get over my complaint was to ride from here to Cumberland in stages as the river is frozen and the other is that out of 38\$ dollars I saved to come home on I have but three dollars in my pocket. and if Mr. Galt House's people say put up your money Mr Fenwick must lodge in the street. In this emergency I have written to Benjamin Burton to give me a letter of introduction to of some merchant in this place. and I will then make use of Mr s Taylor & Pauldings and draw a draft on them. I arrived here last night so that I shall have to stay several days for an answer from cousin Ben. please do not let Mary F know of my sickness

I remain your affectionate nephew

James A Fenwick