

(OBVERSE)

[Red, circular postmark:]

TROY

MAY

29

N.Y.

PAID [faint initials?]

[Handwritten postage:] 7

Lewis Burwell Esq.
Brantford
Upper Canada

Paid

By the way of Lewiston

[Black, circular postmark:]

QUEENSTON

JU [?]

1838

29th May 1838

Alauson Douglas

Re. Stephen Douglas'

last business

[flourish]

(REVERSE)

Troy N.Y. May 29 1838.

Dear Sir -

Your favour of the 14th ² [?] was received on the 20th and I have taken some time to reflect on the subject. I am disposed to do something for my Brother, but before I come to a conclusion I must ask you to receive the suggestions I have to make + give me your opinion. I wish Stephen to be a good subject and in all things do right if his power to the Government that protect him. Having contracted to buy the land at \$4 p0 acre payable with interest I think he is morally bound to do so if able and that he ought not by any arrangement with Msr. H. Smith seek to avoid the back interest especially if the property is worth the money exclusive of his improvements and would not be liable to be [sued?] for the interest if the Government at his request should let Msr. Smith ~~seek to avoid~~ have 200 acres of the land!- would Msr. S be permitted to select the 170 acres improved out of the 3 lots? and if so or not wold Stephen be allowed to pay for the 2[?] remaining 100 acres without making good to the Govern.t the interest on the 200 acres given up! - If not would not the lots of the 100 acres be greater than the [sowing? Owing?] of the back interest on the 200 acres (which is now less than 130 doll.er) even if it cannot be recovered by suit of him?! - I feel that it would be more correct and honorable to meet the demand fairly and pay principal + interest for so much of the land as he feels able to keep and to take it through your influence direct from the Government instead of by any arrangement with M. Smith unless the latter gives a credit to suit the necessities of Stephen which might justify such a course. Being an Alien I cannot take a deed of land in your promise that being the case can I take and hold land under a mortgage when I cannot by deed? I wish you also to ascertain whether if I put myself to the inconvenience of advancing the whole money for Stephen to enable him to get a patent for the 300 acres, he can and will as a matter of honor out of his next crop refund next fall do much of the money as to Reduce the debt to \$1.200. and further what would be his views + probable ability as to the time of paying the balance (1,200 Doll.) by annual installments + annual interest as I pay the money here I should expect to receive it here again in money current here + the interest of this State which is seven per cent.

You will please to see Stephen and apprise[?] him of any views in the case + when you write to me again I will conclude what I may be willing to do for him + write you the result -

I am very respectfully

Your Ob.t. Serv.t.

Lewis Burwell Esq.

Al. Douglas