

Sycamore Hill, Feb 27, 1856

Written from Delaware to Ohio Griffins who left Delaware in 1825

Dear friends, Descriptions of grown children.....Charles halps me on the farm. His is nearly 22. We have a young white man on the farm. Withe that exception we do all of our work except a day hand occasionally. I have sold off the fag ends right and left of the farm and have retained about 200 acres. I raised 1000busheas of corn the last year beside small grain. I have been liming good deal lately and have improved very much the nature of the soil. Lands have advanced considerable in thas country in the last 15 years. Thomas A Rees sold his farm for \$21000. Another man for \$200 an acre. Gossip about peo le.....Henry is loafing around, drunk whenever he can get rum. Our Main Law makes it a little difficult for some people to obtain. It has made a great difference already here altho they yet sell it in Md. and Pennysylvania, when it can be to by steamboat, railroad, etc. / We have now a railroad from the Newcastle & French

Town. It is finished to Dover 35 miles and the trains are running daily. We hear very plainly the whistle of the locomotive to our house. It passes Middletown, Charleytown, Jimtown, south of Tippet House about 300 yards where the depot is. A road from the depot through Farm street to Smyrna for hacks--80 feet wide with a gravel side path each side for foot passengers. Tippet got they say \$1000 or 1500 from the company and has been offered \$1500 for the farm which he has refused. The road then runs through the Rees farm across the Register Millpond and affeckers to Dover. The cars now leave Dover at 5 O'clock for Philadelphia as there is now railroad all the way and return same day and arrive at about 9 pm.

Gossip about people William A Hazel is now severely afflicted with cancer. It has eaten his under lip nearly away and is in his throat. Poor fellow. It will certainly be the death of him in the end. I forgot to mention Ellen Blackiston; she has been dead about two years, died in the almshouse near Wilmington. It has been said she came to her right mind in her death sickness.

Thomas Marim

pk.

Delivered