

Transcribed by Sandra Ball (received 21 Feb 2005)

Letter written by Levi Tobey to his brother Christopher Tobey shortly after he arrived in Charleston Township, Kalamazoo County, Michigan. Levi is the son of Zaccheus (b:1757) and Mary (Gifford) Tobey. Levi mentions his 2nd cousin's Zacheus K. (b:1794), Benjamin, and the "widow" Blakeslee. Zacheus and Benjamin are brothers. The "widow" Blakeslee is their sister Hannah (Tobey) Blakeslee.

Charlestown February 16, 1845

Dear Brother and Sister

I now take my pen in hand to inform you of our present situation. we are all at this time in Joing a good sate of health hoping these lines will find the same for which we feile to praise the Loard that he hath thus far protected ous that not withdraw his holy spirit from ous. I think I cant realy say the Lord is good onto me. When wee started from Caton we had some bad luck we but one of our waggon tiers [tires] which hindred ous one half day. the next morning the other come inter? at mudcrick which took ous the biggist part of the fore noon. wee had now [no] more Bad luck in our Jurney worth naming. soon after we the JennySee River [Genesee River] wee found snow from six inches to 16 inches deep and some drifts a most up to the xcel [axle] trees of our wagon ontill we got within 8 or ten miles of the lake. from thare we had no more snow to hinder ous. whenever hard got threw the Mamee? Swamp (which was the Best road I ever saw) the weather was worse and the rods [roads] muddy (a crossing the Purray? in the ste of Ohio I kilded a snake about 2 feet long a most as lively as in somer) than we was trubled with mud and mudflies for 3 or 4 days until we got into this sate then the weater grew cooler another land more sandy and the wheling [wheeling] good the rest of the way we was 4 weeks and 3 days a traveling a long and a tegious Jurney we had good helth threw the Jurney. my helth improved all the time since wee left your place for which I feel thankful to the Lord when we got to Jonesville we found Jedidiah and family Wm and Prince and Mary all well 50 miles est of this place with this the exception of Wm. he had mete with a sad accident. we found him a crippe he had ben shot threw the left arm (by accident). hee and Prince had hiread out to a man by the name of Mathus to work on the rale road and had ben to husk som corn with two other men. they loded up thare corn and my two boys got in to the middle parte of the wagon. the other men in to the forward part. the forward men had a rifle with them. the man that had charge of the gun took out the gun as it lay on the corn. the gun went of. shot Wm threw the arm. the ball entered the arm aboute two inches above the elbow, cut off the big artey. the blud run from his arm as from the sticking of a hog. they took a hankerchief twisted it Bound it around the arm and he liked to bleed to death before they could get a doctor that was copotent to dress the wound. the arm is heald oup but a little or now use of it. they ware in too Journals? it had ben but six weaks since he was wonded. They had erned about 15 or 20 dollars a good deal of that was expended and it had taken Prince a goo deal of his tim to take care of Wm as he was not able to gow to Jedidiahs he was 50 miles west of thare when wounded. my helth being poor my munney pretty much gon. it looked verry dark and discourriging. I must confes I had wish I got to Jones Vill but 10 dollars left. the fair was not paid on my goods and 50 miles more to travel and among strangers and in a strang contrey I thought it was not --- to be discourriged but put --- side up and put my trust in the God that had protected me so far on my Jurney and started on and in too days reached this plais whare I now am. I had 8 Dollars left and the frate to pay on my goods which was about 10 Dollars. I Borrowed 2 Dollars of bengamin Tobey and got my goods hear. we have not ben able to get much business as yet. we brrowed a loom and Elizabeth has gon to weaving as usual. the publick works are all still and nothing doing until the ground settles. then they will be work a nough for as menny hands as wants work. the widow Blakely, Zacheus, and Bengamin Tobey has bn kind to let ous have provision and wate with us till we can ern it. we have agreed to take a farm four miles from this plaise on the Calamazo river. we are to have two thirds of all we can

rais; corn to be divided in the ear, wheat oats and ry in the stack, hay in the stack. wee are to the noshion in about fore weaks. I can truly say I like this parte of this contry verry well as it appears to me at present. the soiel is sandy often differing in culler. The surfes of the land in many plasis is narly and oneven but no mountanes nor high hills and other places level and verry handsome and plesant. there are --- springs frequently marches [marshes] whare they ----[unreadable]

I believe it to be a beter contry for a poor man to get a living in this contry than whare you are. there is a plenty of land to beter kin by the farm in smaller quantity at a beter by than in your contry. the occupant gets two thirds of the crop whare he finds two thirds of the sead and raise wheat rye oats divided in the stack corn in the ear then --- disc a bout the same with exceptions of Iron and nales and molasses. iron is from 6 to 7 cents per pound. molasses is from 38 cents to 63 per gallon. nales from 6 to 7 cents, dry goods and teas about the same as they are in Corning or in Almira. finest rate flour is worth 3 Dollars 50 cents per barrel, wheat is 63 cents and must be cash. corn from 2 and 6 pence to 3 shillings, wry buckwheat about the same. Potatoes are about 18 cents per bushel and plenty at that.

There is a little or now [no] labour to be had among the farmers at this season of the year. they thrash there grane with macheans in the fall and ly still threw this winter. Therefore we have not bin able to ern much so far this winter. Prince is hired out now for ten Dollars per month and is to have the money for it. it looks a little more favorable than it has done. the winter has ben different from aney I ever saw. there has not ben to inches of snow since I have been in the state. one third of the time it has been like April. religion is verry low but little sade a bout it for which we brought to morn. I want you could let all of our friends and relatives should see this letter that lives in your nighbourhood. what I wright to one I wright the hole. I want to see you all verry much. Pleseto wright son [soon] and let ous know how you are. remember me to all inquiring friends from your brother with the greatest respect. Levi Tobey
to: Christopher Tobey

I had forgot to say to you that our Mary has got marred to a man by the name of Robert Ackley who is a Blacksmith living in Jones Vill 50 miles est of ous.