

Letter, John Easterly to Captain William Seruggs, Marshall's Ferry Ten.
12th May 1839(Seruggs lived in Bentonville Indiana).

Sir In due time I received your letter of last December announcing the death of Mr. Stubblefield where you promised a more particular in a few days giving the information asked but during the last four months I have danced attendance at our post office in vain and still no letter and I have heard no more of you than if you were located beyond the artistic circle Seruggs what makes you do me so I have not deserved this neglect but you may not be alive or something so When I wrote you last I said something of an intended trip to Southern Kentucky I went it and when you say it could not be for soil or society you talk sense It was chiefly on Johnsons account that I went and truly the philosopher has much to contemplate there If Creation has a fagg end I saw it in a few counties of West Tennessee and Kentucky. The land is broken deranged misplaced and poor the people poor in body and Soul but there were exceptions I found some as fine fellows here as any two in particular one of whom is a member of the Senate of Kentucky On my return a called in and stoped t two days with Mike Johnson and Polly and got acquainted with their young family he had moved and lived one year in the North part of Knox county but has sold and bought and now lives on the South of Holston 10 miles from Town with these people I was truly pleased Johnson is a truly kind hearted man and has some mind a most accomplished Stock raiser and nice farmer but was on dreadful poor land where he last lived Polly is really a woman to my notion a good housewife a sweeping mind and as free from Superstition as natures field itself The children are interesting and promising I did not see the Maloney Boys they are to themselves and profitably employed near Knoxville. The young children are named Mary Easterly & William Seruggs Philip Easterly(twins), 4th Lydia Jane, 5th Susana Magdalen all good constitutions and keen minds the Twin Boys particular.

Our country is lookin up a little in point of improvement The Hiwassee railroad rapidly in progress and Steam Navigation increasing But money is vastly scarce and prices of country produce low the country now healthy and the Spring Season beautiful and promising plentiful crops of all kinds My own and my wifes health is truly Slender evidencing Shattered Constitutions I labour but little except gardening at which I am great especially at something to eat the Children are well and all with me but there are signs of Galens shortly Sidling off if so he may streak it for his land in Indiana as I intend one half and the best half of my land there for him if ever a boy merited a Start from his father he does I will not now bother you with any pretensions of coming to your Country to Kentucky I dont go My greatest anxiety now is the safety of my land in your country that at least two of my young ones may get there I may be with you between this and fall but my health must be better I cannot travel By your letter I learn that you are postmaster at Bentonville have youx left your farm and gone to town to attend to Judge Breadways estate(I presume you are his Exesutor) if so what is doing at the farm or have you sold on which points I would be glad to be informed I regret the death of the Judge as I take it you have lost a friend which has also been my fate in Marsh last that benefactor of mankind David Shields Esq. Died. His papermill was burned in December and by 15th Feb. rebuilt about the 22d March he died leaving a young widow and one child and last week the Mill was Burned again thought in both sases to have been set on fire by his enemies.

Easterly to Seruggs (son)

Ten Days later

Since writing the above I saw Isaac Lane and wife they are all well have not heard from any of you in a year I also heard from Moses Conrad and Gross Seruggs all are alive and well Seruggs lived near Rosses Landing in Bradley County.

for the last ten days we have been dry and hot and crops are suffering we have the greatest prospect of fruit in this country ever known

Seruggs write me Soon let me know how times is among the Hooshies give me the information need about my land and as much other Information as you can tell me if Indiana will go for Van buren for president(here Clay seems to be the toast but I myself feel a little Vanburenish

Your Friend

Capt Billy Seruggs

John Easterly