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Title: Letters from Roger B. Taney and Jane Shaaff to Arthur Shaaff

Date: August 14, 1820

Location: I-SpahrB-undated-41

Contact:

Archives & Special Collections Waidner-Spahr Library Dickinson College P.O. Box 1773 Carlisle, PA 17013

717-245-1399

archives@dickinson.edu

I falst much indicted to you my dear arthur for your letter to me I blame my self for having suffered it to surrain so long without an answer. My only apology is that my health has been bed over fine her farted and the effect of such toutined it health has been to make my hand be unalled y that it is painful to writ. For the last few months my health has improved and I hope I shall not examine my health has improved and I hope I shall not example you to be so long without a later pour me.

sais this iles

The letters you deceine from your the printy in this lowerly will no doubt toll you way hing you wish to have about them. It will therefore be my business to shade to you as the situation of your estate of which it is proper that you should be admined. It is proper that you should be admined. The eye cutors of your lassented pather have found his estate to be indecled at the limit of his Death to an amount for being and the eyes to trong this grant to be indecled at the limit of his Death to an amount for begand the expectations. These deats were executed.

assumed by your father as his him I representative. It was the wish of the yearthis to have pais this diets at once I to have delivered over the estate to guardiens to be appointed by the Court. But there were no frances ported to pay with, upuft by the sale of the laws on the Servants. The Literation of the County has made it inhopile to see any land without a great some five of interest & we are most unwilling to see the Perwants who have all be have faitifully and will. - and besides, if the servants were sot the land somet go into the hands of truents & be thus greatly require in its relace. be have then for thought that we Should best discharge the duty you father worlded to us, by carrying on the farms just as he left them, and end con aming to pay the delets out of he profits. The great aconomy of your yellent mother in the management I har farmily tracums, who is willing to deny horsely every thing, in own to promote the interest of the Children - gines us the hope that we shall be able to pay off the Delta by the time you come to the age of twenty one years to bego and on from as you are of by it is one wish that you should be appointed the quarieon for your yaunger brothers and sisters of the estate

Of your father to Delivered in the hands of his children to what we have it belongs . Our hope in that we may be able to believe it just as we found to we imposed in beauty on welve of discharge from the with which it was manufaced.

For the masons about mentioned guardies have
not been appointed for any of the children - and they
did umain ender the care of the execution. But I zamy been arthur profer a different amangement.

you are entitled by law to cheen your grandies.

I am mile then lette up the estate by a sale of some

part of the property of Deliver it own to the quadries

you may chose -

with wheat to gamesty my see author, we show the glas that you want remain when you are and write your advanced is larefulto let of the uptor - uphine of survivery you always has already been interested.

Jour annual uphones to not have upus what wents be required to support you at college in this lountry.

- a change of place wants produce a change of system is game to action, and of course in form begree retain your property. And also all it was as we believe the west of your property. And also all it was as we believe the west

de me not only desire to injuste his intentions. but we greatly the his howledge and judgment - I give you are unsops - because at you time of life her aught hat to ask you to do any thing without being able to give you a meson for it-and a good on - I wants buglas my dear author wines and arrangements -By health his been such as to renow me unable to visit George Town fine last frammer - and I have not Less Mr. Though live that time you whation, in this part of the world are well - you have no doubt before this time heard of the death of our good friends mit daly muscer gave aunt muricant has borne

This severe lofs with the firming and virgue time of a constitute. The is well and charter

you like four is now in Francish to be visit to her finds white say to you what I withink would not say to you what I withink would not say to har the is my beautiful t is surrounded with the beauty of Franch - and I must add that the leave of the princh - and I must add that the

Some days together at areasia, engages in the loncorns of the estate as I was not able to go to George Town, he has been

himo enough to come to Franish or this business He traves me tomorrow and will paracero this letter to you - mes Tany and my little girls jain me in a quat sear of low to you may god pusure you my dear better and resto in safety to your priends in america - who talk about your continually - and love you dearly - who love you not only for your over sohe - but for the date of our Defrantes friends your excellent father and mother - and forgine me for daying that burhaps I love you ever still more for the sake of your uncle whose name you bear - who was long my most intimate and resture friend & whose memory the surrey at arcadia constantly hup a line -Formule my deer artim appetionately you Juino -Or. 03 Tany

Brother which I have to write you and for which you will to little prepared _our dailing little John Thomas is no more! he died on Friday the 11th of Mugust after suffering violent pain for a week, which he bore with the gentleness of a little lamb. how sorry I am that I was not at home; I did not get down from Frederick till Monday - No ther vays he hips 's tothe the children before he died, put his pour little cold aims round their necho and bed them give type, was quite concious until the last - a mothersdysentary was the complaint of which hedied _ you can well judge of the distress of Norther and poor hip Reggy - it is like a dream to me I can reaccely realise it yet - he was buried on Paturday by the siace of our dear father it was a stroke so much know an west page how much know it is felt, pour lette darling he was always so long poor Charles, that wey tody semid to think he would be taken before him, but he's gone, & with him all the little lappings that his Peggy or assured my dearest brother I shale do atmost

Francish so this business

to souther and to comport loth, as much as in me lies_ it is a hand struggle a quest trial to pon Nother you must be sensible - "the only son of his mother inflicted the How I trust will give strongth to daffort her under it she says she will write to you as soon as she can - they dear brother you will see by Mr. Janey & letter what he thinks of your return my so voon our dear mother begs of wice tell you that upon reading your letter she felt pleasure traghts of seeing you so soon but upon - I letter she thinks all be says isso a proper that the lopes you will appred The has written you and if I have any influence let me intreas you to follow his advise, you bile he sony afterwards should you not follow it he assur'd. what could be the possible advantage of going abroad to de but one ingle, tot school excuse me my dearest brother for thus writing, hut indeed for you so much look up to you for 10 much that I cannot help unging you all I can - don't think that I do not wish to see you this my constant prager to leaven and the most pervent una first wish of my heart - Nother hopes you will write soon and the her low you determine, do think well and decides night - and as neg all wish a as you have her advised - wate to poor mother soon The loved you dearly - Thailes is at lone now, for a week Mr. Mr Harvey are here also, and hary Beogain is expected to - morrow _ 6) I. W. was as know x attentive as any me

tould be during dear little John & Moneys, we ale owe him quar qualitude - Nother, help Leggy, Ann & havey dend their love with all their hearts to you my brother and vecine that of your ever affectionder and prolly attached dister that m. game Shaaff war to her lotter 1000 NOS down the high ? The same of the sa From Roger B. Jany .. 8 Jane - 8 Sister Jane - 8 All your priends asked particularly of you in viederica and appear to take great interest in you this letter was sent down when I came to see if nother approved what Mr. T. have raise relative to your return

Frederick Augt. 14th 1820

I felt much indebted to you my dear Arthur for your letter to me & blame myself for having suffered it to remain so long without an answer. My only apology is that my health has been bad ever since we parted, and the effect of such continued ill health has been to make my hand so unsteady that it is painful to write - For the last few months my health has improved and I hope I shall not again suffer you to be so long without a letter from me. -

The letters you receive from your other friends in this Country will no doubt tell you every thing you wish to know about them. It will therefore be my business to speak to you of the situation of your estate of which it is proper that you should be advised. - The executors of your lamented father have found his estate to be indebted at the time of his death to an amount far beyond their expectations. These debts were created for the most part by your uncle, & after his death were assumed by your father as his heir & representative. It was the wish of the executors to have paid these debts at once & to have delivered over the estate to Guardians to be appointed by the court. But there were no funds to pay with, except by the sale of the land or the servants. The situation of the Country has made it impossible to sell any land without a great sacrifice of interest & we are most unwilling to sell the servants who have all behaved faithfully and well. and besides, if the servants were sold the land must go into the hands of tenants & be thus greatly injured in its value. We have therefore thought that we should best discharge the duty your father confided to us, by carrying on the farms just as he left them, and endeavouring to pay the debts out of the profits. The great economy of your excellent mother in the management of her family concerns, - who is willing to deny herself every thing, in order to promote the interest of the children - gives us the hope that we shall be able to pay off the debts by the time you come to the age of twenty one years. And as soon as you are of age it is our wish that you should be

appointed the Guardian for your younger brothers and sisters & the estate of your father be delivered into the hands of his children - to whom it belongs - Our hope is that we may be able to deliver it just as we found it - unimpaired in beauty or value & discharged from the debts with which it was incumbered.

For the reasons above mentioned Guardians have not been appointed for any of the children - and they still remain under the care of the executors. But if you my dear Arthur prefer a different arrangement you are entitled by law to chuse your Guardian & we will than settle up the estate by a sale of some part of the property & deliver it over to the Guardians you may chuse -

With respect to yourself my dear Arthur, we should be glad that you would remain where you are until your education is completed. All of the extra - expence of sending you abroad has already been incurred - your annual expences do not now exceed what would be required to support you at College in this country - a change of place would produce a change of system in your education, and of course in some degree retard your progress - and above all it was as we believe the wish of your father that your education should be finished at Glassgow & we not only desire to execute his intentions - but we greatly confide in his knowledge and judgment - I give you our reasons - because at your time of life we ought not to ask you to do any thing without being able to give you a reason for it - and a good one. - I would be so glad my dear Arthur to hear from you & know what you think of our views and arrangements -

My health has been such as to render me unable to visit George Town since last summer - and I have not seen M. Shaaff since that time. Your relations in this part of the world are well - you have no doubt before this time heard of the death of our good friend Miss Polly Mendact. Your aunt Mendact - has borne this severe loss with the firmness and resignation of a Christian. She is well and cheerful.

Your sister Jane is now in Frederick on a visit to her friends, - She

talks of returning to George Town next week - I will say to you (what I certainly would not say to her) that she is very beautiful & is surrounded with the beaux of Frederick - and I must add that she seems perfectly indifferent to their attentions -

Our friend Capt. Marbury is now with me - we have been some days together at Arcadia, engaged in the concerns of the estate. As I was not
able to go to George Town, he has been kind enough to come to Frederick on
this business. He leaves me tomorrow and will forward this letter to you M.** Taney and my little girls join me in a great deal of love to you -

May God preserve you. My dear Arthur and restore you in safety to your friends in America - who talk about you continually - and love you dearly - who love you not only for your own sake - but for the sake of our departed friends your excellent father and mother - and forgive me for saying that perhaps I love you even still more for the sake of your uncle whose name you bear - who was long my most intimate and valued friend & whose memory the at Arcadia constantly keep alive -

Farewell my dear Arthur
Affectionately your

friend -

R. B. Taney

1820

Sad and painful are the tidings my dearest Brother which I have to write you and for which you will be so little prepared - our darling little John Thomas is no more ! he died on Friday the 11. of August after suffering violent pain for a week, which he bore with the gentleness of a little lamb how sorry I am that I was not at home,! I did not get down from Frederick till Monday - Mother says he kiss'd both the children before he died, put his poor little cold arms round their necks and bid them goodbye, was quite concious until the last - a violent dysentary was the complaint of which he died - you can well judge of the distress of Mother and poor Miss Peggy it is like a dream to me I can scarcely realise it yet - he was buried on Saturday by the side of our dear father - it was a stroke so unexpected that you can well judge how much keener it is felt, poor little darling he was always so harty, so strong, look'd so much more likely to live long than poor Charles, that every body seem'd to think he would not be taken before him, but he's gone, & with him all the little happiness that Miss Peggy or Mother had left to enjoy here - but you may be assured my dearest brother I shall do my utmost to soothe and to comfort both, as much as in me lies it is a hard struggle a great trial to poor Mother you must be sensible -"the only son of his Mother and she was widow" yet the Almighty hand that inflicted the blow I trust will give strength to support her under it - she says she will write to you as soon as she can - My dear brother you will see by M. Taney's letter what he thinks of your returning so, soon our dear Mother begs I will tell you that upon reading your letter whe felt pleasure (torn) thoughts of seeing you so soon, but upon (torn) Mr. Taneys letter she thinks all he says is (torn) and proper - that she hopes you will approve of what he has written you and if I have any influence let me intreat you to follow his advise, you will be sorry afterwards should you not follow it be assur'd. What could be the possible advantage of going abroad to be but one

single year at school - excuse me my dearest brother for thus writing, but indeed I love you so much look up to you for so much - that I cannot help urging you all I can - dont think that I do not wish to see you 'tis my constant prayer to heaven and the most fervent and first wish of my heart -Mother hopes you will write soon and tell her how you determine, do think well and decide right and as we all wish & as you have been advised - write to poor mother soon she loves you dearly - Charles is at home now, for a week Mrs & Mr Harvey are here also, and Mary Brogden is expected to-morrow -Dr. W. was as kind & attentive as any one could be during dear little John's illness, we all owe him great gratitude - Mother, Miss Peggy, Ann & Mary send their love with all their hearts to you my brother and receive that of your ever affectionate and fondly attached sister

Miss J S

All your friends asked particularly of you in Frederick and appear to take great interest in you - this letter was sent down (when I came) to see if Mother approved what Mr. T. said relative to your return.

On verso:

Mr. Arthur Sheeff
Care of John Lang Esqr.
Glassgow
Scotland