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**Title:** Letter from Joseph Priestley Jr. to John Smith

**Date:** August 29, 1803

**Location:** MC 1998.1, B1, F12

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Sir

I duly received your letters of May 19<sup>th</sup> & August 16<sup>th</sup>. I had engaged a surveyor to go out & run the lines of the Tract as this week, but I met with a person last week a Captain Gray of Sumbury who knew the land well from having surveyed the tract, adjoining, or perhaps from having been concerned in taking up the land. He informed me that the land was not worth the surveying fees, being the very summit of a high steep mountain. This account was confirmed to me by a Mr Thomas Hamilton of this place, & indeed the late date at which the land was taken up is a proof that it cannot be ~~much~~ worth much if any thing as all the good land had been taken up long before, it being an old settled country.

I am sorry to have to send you such an account but as I would not be at the expence of surveying the land were it my own, I thought it wrong to subject you to the expence without informing you.

I am Sir

Your Obed<sup>tle</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>  
Joseph Priestley Jun<sup>r</sup>

Northumberland  
August 29. 1803.

relates to  
Mr Deans first  
of 242<sup>nd</sup> Ave

Joseph P. ...  
Jan - to Mr Smith } 29 Aug 1833 / 2<sup>nd</sup>

John Smith Esq

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