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## Documents Online

**Title:** Letters from James Sellers to Eli Slifer

**Date:** 1851-1858

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Stoughton March 15. 1857

Col Eli Hildre

Dear Sir

I have a little business in the Land office which I would be glad if you would attend to for me, Sometime in 1814. or 1815 a warrant was granted to Joseph Sellers my Father for some 120. or 130 acres of land in Greenwood Township then Mifflin now Mercur County. I wish to obtain a Patent for the same, and do not know will be required to obtain it. See what must be done in order to get the Patent, and they see the Patent I will send the money forthwith to you to pay for it.

truly Yours,

Gen. H. page 53, p. #13, 33 James M. Sellers  
132<sup>o</sup> 90<sup>o</sup> on Wt. H. Jos. Sellers dated 14 Sept. 1814  
50<sup>o</sup> p. 16<sup>o</sup> p. 1<sup>o</sup> April 1810

Shew #10.

Mifflintown March 15, 1851

Col Eli Slifer

Dear Sir

I have a little business in the Land office which I would be glad if you would attend to for me. Sometime in 1814 or 1815 a warrant was granted to Joseph Sellers my Father for some 120 or 130 acres of land in Greenwood Township then Mifflin now Juniata County. I wish to obtain a Patent for the same, and do not know will be required to obtain it. See what must be done in order to get the Patent and they issue the Patent I will send the money forthwith to you to pay for it.

truly yours,

James M Sellers

Middlebury March 21. 1857

Col Edw. Sibley

Dear Sir

I enclose to you a certificate of the Register, that letters of Administration were duly issued to myself & David Carter on the estate of my Father, dead. I presume this will be enough, when the Patent is issued. I will send you the money to pay for the Patent and the fees, due the office. I would like to have it before the first of April as I have sold the land.

truly yours friend

James M. Sellen

Mifflintown March 21, 1851

Col Eli Slifer

Dear Sir

I inclose to you a Certificate of the Register that letter of Administrations were duly issued to myself & David Castlers on the estate of my Father, dead. I presume this will be enough. When the Patent is issued, I will send you the money to pay for the Patent and the fees, due the office I would like to have it before the first of April as I have sold the land.

truly your friend

James M Sellers

Millington July 31. 1854

Col Eli Sizer

Dear Sir

As you reside at  
the seat of War, and the time seems  
to have arrived, to make an effort  
I would like to have your candid  
opinion in relation to the local ques-  
tion which unfortunately divide Old  
Miss County - and whether there is  
any prospect of the different parties  
uniting, or if there is any chance  
for a Whig Candidate for Senator  
being elected, if there is no chance  
I will not fight for a nomination  
with defeat staring me in the  
face, if otherwise I will fight it  
to the bitter end, let me hear  
from you soon.

Very  
Yours  
James M. Selley

Mifflintown July 31, 1854

Col Eli Slifer

Dear Sir

As you reside at the seat of War, and the time seems to have arrived to make an effort I would like to have your candid opinion in relation to the local questions which unfortunately divide old Union County, and whether there is any prospect of the different parties uniting, or if there is any chance for a Whig Candidate for Senator being elected, if there is no chance I will not fight for a nomination with defeat staring me in the face, if otherwise I will fight it to the "Bitter end" let me hear from you soon.

Truly

James M Sellers

Wilmington Aug. 29 /54

Col Eli Hefner

Dear Sir:

Our Convention held this day appointed, J. D. Sharon Esq Michael Frank, & John S McCurdy, Representatives Conferees, without any instructions, they are reasonable men, and will do nothing hastily or without due reflection, and have the importance of a Whig triumph fully impressed on them, they are personal friends of mine and will be under my control. The Senatorial Conferees are Saml A Evans Benjamin Akely & St. W. McAlister, they are more particularly under my control than the others, you know Evans and Akely - Akely will do any thing I may wish him to do, and will to oblige <sup>me</sup> you oblige you if he can secure my election, by any means, Wm Thomas Bowers be strong in Your County, and would be do better than a man in this County, I had some rough sliding here, but was nominated on first ballot. I will have some trouble here, let me hear from you soon they have appointed Saturday the 9<sup>th</sup> day of August



for the meeting of the Conference at either  
Adamsburg or Brown Town and both to  
meet at the same place, if Union County  
fails, I have made a heads job of it.

Very yours

James M. Miller

Mifflintown Aug. 29/54

Col Eli Slifer

Dear Sir

Our Convention held this day appointed J. D. Sharon Esq Michael Fenck, & John S McCardy Representative Conferees, without any instructions, they are reasonable men and will do nothing hastily or without due reflection and have the importance of a Whig triumph fully impressed on them, they are personal friends of mine and will be under my control The Senatorial Conferees are Saml O Evans Benjamin Akely & N. W. McAlester, they are more particularly under my control than the others, you know Evans and Akely – Akely will do any thing I may wish him to do, and will to oblige me can oblige you if he can secure my election, by any means, Would Thomas Bowen be strong in Your County, and would he do better than a man in this county, I had some rough sledding here , but was nominated on first ballot. I will have some trouble here, let me hear from you soon they have appointed Saturday the 9<sup>th</sup> day of August

[page break]

for the meeting of the conferees at either Adamburg or Beavertown and both to meet at the same place, if Union County fails. I have made a bad job of it

Truly yours

James M Sellers

Wilmington Oct. 4 1854

Dear Eli Lefevre

Dear Sir

I find it utterly <sup>hopeless</sup> impossible to be in your place, and my not coming over will be a matter of no consequence. We have all manner of questions to meet here. The worst of the lot is the question in the Temperance issue I am trying to get things into shape. I find that a traitor in the Camp is worse than ten avowed enemies, and I have several here. We doing all we can, to make matters work right, and hope to be met with a corresponding effort in "Aldo Union" Telegraph me as soon as Lewisburg is counted off on Tuesday night so that I can know the worst, tell your brethren how Mr. Thiel's that I am a T. A. and Mr. Doty is not, and let this be known in the Brighton Council, Write to me <sup>soon</sup> and inform me the political sky looks, tell Mr. Cameron, that Doty has always been a bitter enemy of his brother Semiers—

Truly Yours  
James M. Sellers

Mifflintown Oct 4 1854

Col Eli Slifer

Dear Sir

I find it utterly impossible to be in your place, and hope my not coming over will be a matter of no consequence, We have all manner of questions to meet here the worst of the lot is the question is the Temperance issue I am trying to get things into shape I find that a traitor in the Camp is worse than ten avowed enemies, And I have several here We doing all we can, to make matters work right, and hope to be met with a corresponding effort in "Old Union." Telegraph me as soon as Lewisburg is counted off on Tuesday night so that I can know the worst. tell your brother in law Mr Frick that I am a K. N. and Mr Doty is not, and let this be known in the Neighbouring Councils, Write to me soon and inform me the political sky looks, tell Wm Cameron that Doty has always been a bitter enemy of his brother Seniors-

Truly James M Sellers

Karlsruhe July 15. 58

Cal Ed. Refs

My dear Sir

The investigating committee  
are under way and is  
constituted as follows. Jordan, Brown,  
McClellin, Sivate, Eyster, Thomp-  
son & Golladay House. They have  
sent for Prof. Sanderson, Harry  
Coxwell, Dr. Payne, E. C. Smith  
and Mr. Payton whom I  
suppose we will have some  
fine. I am receiving a perfect  
torrent of letters from the Anti  
Division men protesting against  
the time of the election and  
asking that the time may  
be changed to the October  
election, that they would be

be no turn out, and hence no  
fair expression, would you men  
in any event agree to the election  
being held in October?

I will keep you advised  
on the future question.

I think Cameron stuck it  
down, let me hear from  
you soon.

Truly yours

James M. Selley

Harrisburg Feby 15, 55

Col Eli Slifer

My Dear Sir

The Investigating committee are under way and is constituted as follows, Jordan, Brown, & McClure Senate, Eyster, Thompson & Lollady House. They have sent for Jno. P Landaden, Harry Connelly, Dr. Jayne, S.C. Swain and Mr Paxton when I suppose we will have some fun. I am receiving a perfect torrent of letters from the Anti Divisions Men protesting against the time of the election and asking that the time may be changed to the October election, that there would be

[page break]

be no time out, and hence no fair expression, would your men in any event argue to the election being held in October!

I will Keep you advised on the Senatorial question I think Cameron Stock is down, let me hear from you soon.

Truly your friend  
James M Sellers

Wausau July 23. 1858

Col Eli Loring

My Dear Sir

The Domain  
bill is in the hands of Dr Crawford  
I asked him to take it up & have  
it disposed of he may do so to  
tomorrow. The article in yesterday's  
= says Ledge in letter of the Hanni  
=burg correspondents ~~letter~~ subodine  
the feeling here, and my candid  
impression is that if the bill  
now before the Senate they would  
kill it without any hope of red  
emption, I wish the infernal  
thing soon ended. There is nothing  
now here in the way of Senate  
I think Casson cannot come  
in, I am getting better by every



would to cut loose from Casorn  
and instructions from nearly every con-  
-cil in my district, to leave him, what  
am I to do? did you see the Letter  
of of last week. there is a most  
ungentlemanly article, in it aimed  
in part at you, and the balance  
at me, I cannot see what Ginn  
means, by his course, I certainly  
and so do you deserve better  
treatment from him, let me  
hear from you soon

Truly

Josiah M. Selby

Harrisburg Feby 23, 1855

Col Eli Slifer

My Dear Sir

The Division bill is in the hands of Dr Crawford I wished him to take it up & have it disposed of he may do so on tommorrow. The article in yesterdays Ledger in letter of the Harrisburg correspondents ~~letter~~ embodies the feeling here and my candid impression is that if the bill now before the Senate they would Kill it without any hope of redemption, I wish the infernal thing was ended, There is nothing new here in the way of Senator I think Cameron cannot curse us, I am getting letters by every

[page break]

mail to cut loose from Cameron and instructions from nearly every council in my district, to leave him, what am I to do! did you see the Sentinel" of last week , there is a most ungentlemanly article in it aimed in part at you, and the balance at me, I cannot see what [Green?] means, by his censure. I certainly and so do you deserve better treatment form him. let me hear from you soon

Truly  
James M Sellers

Harrisburg July 28<sup>th</sup> 1858

My Dear Sir

Before this reaches you you will no doubt have learned that the Senatorial election has been postponed, I voted for Cameron on every ballot I thought it was sufficiently demonstrated that he could not be elected, and then voted for the postponement. I suppose the friends of Cameron will think that I should not have voted as I did on the last vote, but I felt as if some thing was due to my own self respect after I had stuck to him with inflexible fidelity from the first, and

was satisfied that no section  
could be had. I therefore voted  
as I did to place myself right  
with men who have always  
sustained me, and who have  
been pressing in letters to me  
with the significant expression  
be ware, how you vote, can  
I be sustained with you in  
the last vote. I know nine  
tenths of my people at home  
will say that ~~acted~~ right  
at least my conscience feels  
better, and I breathe easier.  
He means you in his article  
but he is not a responsible  
being, he writes to me that  
my course is both mean  
and contemptible so that  
you see that I am wear  
far thou you are. The divis  
ion near from Silverspoon

are here what they may do  
but will know soon, let me  
hear from you when William  
Cassara comes home, as he  
will no doubt tell you his mind  
in the premises. Have you filled  
all your clerkships, I have  
a young friend who would  
like to have a situation under  
you he is the Brother of  
J. D. Sharon Esq, of Suffolton  
and would take the least  
respectable clerkship with  
the smallest salary -

July

James M. Selley

Harrisburg Feby 28th 1855

My Dear Sir

Before this reaches you you will no doubt have learned that the Senatorial election has been postponed. I voted for Cameron on every ballot I thought it was sufficiently demonstrated that he could not be elected, and then voted for the postponement. I suppose the friends of Cameron will think that I should not have voted as I did on the last vote, but I felt as if something was due to my own self respect after I had stuck to him with inflexible fidelity from the first, and

[page break]

was satisfied that no election could be had. I therefore voted as I did to place myself right with men who have always sustained me, and who have been pouring in letters to me with the significant expression "beware" how you vote, can I be sustained with you in the last vote. I know nine tenths of my people at home will say that acted right at least my conscious feels better, and I breathe easier [Green?] mentions you in his article but he is not a responsible being, he writes to me that my course is both "mean and contemptible" so that I am in worse fix than you are. The Davison men from Selinsgrove

[page break]

are here what they may do but will know soon, let me hear from you when William Cameron comes home, as he will no doubt tell you his mind in the premises. Have you filled all your Clerkships. I have a young friend who would like to have a situation under you he is the Brother of J. D. Sharon Esq. of Mifflintown and would take the least responsible clerkship with the smallest Salary-

Truly

James M Sellers

Hamstring March 2 1855

Col Eli Lippin

My Dear Sir

The Division  
Bill will be passed today and be  
signed by the Governor, so that  
the funds of Division can go to  
work, and get out their men

There is nothing new in way of  
W. S. Senator, but as far as I can  
learn there is but few dissenting  
opinions from the course taken by  
the majority, I thought I had fully  
performed all my obligations to Senr  
Cameron, and think so still, if the  
men who promised to vote for him  
had performed their promise as faithfully  
as I have done mine, he  
would have been the Senator

And if they failed to vote at  
the time they promised is certainly  
no fault of mine, I do not know  
what may now be done, I feel  
that I have performed my own  
duty, John W. Maynard Esq took  
two votes from Compton, Center &  
Kunkle both think that they have  
some chance, my own impression  
is that Center is dead, what  
think you? I sent a circular some  
days since to N. P. Shellen Esq  
in relation to the Linsbury Bond  
do you know whether he has  
answered it yet, I am about to  
vote for Banks, and wish mine  
was decided, let me hear from  
you often

Truly  
Yours A. S. Allen



The committee of the Judiciary have  
asked to be discharged from the  
consideration of Mr Gov A Mellins  
Bill and it has gone to the  
committee a Rare Bird, of  
which Gough is champion and  
he will kill the bill if he  
can, he has proposed to hold  
it over until he either sees  
or hears from you. I will write  
to you as soon as I know what  
is done in the premises

Harrisburg March 2 1855

Col Eli Slifer

My Dear Sir

The Division Bill will be passed to day and be signed by the Governor, so that the friends of Division can go to work, and get out their men. There is nothing new in way of W. S. Senator, but as far as I can learn there is but few dissenting opinions from the course taken by the majority. I thought I had fully performed all my obligations to Senior Cameron, and think so still, if the men who promised to vote for him had preformed their promises as faithfully as I have done mine, he would have been the Senator

[page break]

The committee of the Judiciary have asked to be discharged from the consideration of Mr Geo F Mullins Bill and it has gone to the committee on Rail Road for which [Arugyh?] is chairman and he will Kill the bill if he can, he has promised to hold it over until he either sees or hears from you. I will write to you as soon as I Know what is done in the [preservation?]

[page break]

and if they failed to vote at the time they promised is certainly no fault of mine, I do not Know what may now be done. I feel that I have performed my whole duty. John W Maynard Esq took two votes from Cameron. Curtin & Kunkles both think that they have some chance, my own impression is that Curtin is dead. What think you? I sent a [one word illegible] some days since to H. P. Shiller Esq in relation to the Lewisburg Board do you know whether he has answered it yet. I am about tired voting for Boards, and wish mine was disposed, let me hear from you often

Truly

James M Sellers

Hamburg March 14/55

Dear Eli Sifer

My Dear Sir

I enclose to you a letter handed  
to me this morn<sup>g</sup>, I spoke  
to Ferguson in relation to his  
clubship, he is well pleased  
and wishes you to write a  
line to his man Elden, and  
send it to him and he will  
send it to Elden, the reason  
why he wishes it is that  
Elden may send a horse, the  
plummers are gathering into  
Hamburg, and I suppose  
something is to be done, in  
the way of electing trustees

Truly

James M. Sellers

Harrisburg March 14/55

Col Eli Slifer

My Dear Sir

I inclose to you a letter handed to me this minute, I spoke to Ferguson in relation to his clerkship, he is well pleased and wishes you to write a line to his man Elden, and send it to him and he will send it to Elden, the reason why he wishes it is that Elder may rent a house. The plunderers are gathering into Harrisburg, and I suppose something is to be done, in the way of electing Senators

Truly

James M Sellers

Hannsbury March 26<sup>th</sup> 85

Col Eli. Hefu

Dear Sir

Your letter of the 23<sup>rd</sup> is before I think when a better state of feeling exist I may get the Bank Bill through. It was the personal appeals of Dave Taggart that defeated me, he went round to Jordan Lewis Brown and a number of others, and I have doubt<sup>defeated it</sup> whipped Carver to them and then when I was relying on the promise of men he was getting them to vote against it. Since then the Governor has begged of me not to call it up, as he would be compelled to get the Stewart Bill, much as he might dislike doing so. I intend to vote against all Banks and for a few new counties to please Messrs Jordan Buck Lewis and others, until they become dead, I will do the best I can in the Rail Road Bill, "old Mr" has gone home, they make no serious effort to change the Decatur line but speak long and loud about "fund & corruption".

Truly yours

James M. Hillen

Harrisburg March 26<sup>th</sup> 55

Col Eli Slifer

Dear Sir

Your letter of the 23rd is before I think when a better state of feeling exists I may get the Bank Bill though. It was the personal appeals of Dave Taggart that defeated me, he went round to Jordan Lewis Brown and a number of others, and I have doubt whispered Cameron to them and then defeated it when I was relying on the promises of men he was getting them to vote against it. Since then the Governor has begged of me not to call it up, as he would be compelled to veto the Bill, much as he might dislike doing so, I intend to vote against all Banks and for a few new counties to please Missrs Jorden Frick Lewis and others, until they become decent, I will do the best I can in the Rail Road Bill "Old Nev" has gone home, they made no serious effort to change the Davis line but speak long and loud about "friend & compatriots"

Truly your friend

James M Sellers

Hoffman July 21, 1855

Col Eli Sapa

My Dear Sir

I returned home on Wednesday night by the way of Hamshung but did not go up town, came in at 11. O'clock and went out at 3. Have not dreamed any about Lewis' bay since would you inform me when those Engines on the mountain are for sale, if you know, and if you do not know, inform me when you find out a friend of mine wishes to buy one.

Truly  
James M. Sella

Mifflintown July 21, 1855

Col Eli Slifer

My Dear Sir

I returned home on Wednesday night by the way of Harrisburg but did not go up town, came in at 11 O'clock and went out at 3. Have not dreamed any about Lewisburg since Would you inform me when those Engines on the mountain are for sale, if you know, and if you do not know, inform me when you find out a friend of mine wishes to buy one.

Truly

James M Sellers



(Confidential)

Wilmington Sept 22 1855

My Dear Sir

I have been from home  
which is the reason I have not  
written to you sooner. The Ameri-  
-can Party of this County have now  
nominated Dr James M Crawford and  
my opinion is that the best thing  
the party can do in your County  
would be to nominate him by  
the Draw. His election would sustain  
our action last winter I think it  
would be policy for a member  
of your men to write a joint letter  
to the Doctor asking him to run  
as an Independent Candidate  
I will see Stiles soon, in the  
mean time prepare a letter and  
send it to me. I saw the Democr-  
-atic printer here, he will do right  
if he is furnished the right kind  
of "material aid" Truly yours  
James M. Selley

(Confidential)

Mifflintown Sept 22 1855

My Dear Sir

I have been from home which is the reason I have not written to you sooner. The American Party of this County have nominated Dr. James W Crawford and my opinion is that the best thing the party can do in your county would be to nominate him by the Order. His election would sustain our action last winter I think it would be policy for a number of your men to write a joint letter to the Doctor asking him to run as an Independent Candidate I will see Slifer soon in the mean time prepare a letter and send it to me I saw the Democratic printer here, he will do right if he is furnished the right kind of "Material Aid"

Truly your friend  
James M Sellers

April 23 1859

Col Eli Sifer

Denton

Our Bank all  
has not been signed, and  
I think Agnew Garrison should  
be here. I cannot tell  
when we will adjourn  
but not for some time

Truly your friend  
James M. Sellers

April 23 1857

Col Eli Slifer

Dear Sir

Our Bank bill has not been repaid, and I think Squire Cameron should be here. I cannot tell when we will adjourn, but not for some time

Truly your friend  
James M Sellers

Supplinton Dec 10, /58

Col Eli Sifu

Dear Sir

I have had  
no word from that money  
will it come. I had a  
letter last night from  
Mr Conway in which  
he says he fears that  
some of the City members  
may go for Taggart. I  
suppose you do not  
secure enough for them  
can you do any thing  
more in that quarter. I  
still think Cathran is the  
language man. I had a  
talk myself with Mr. Winters  
the Whiffle Co member

He don't talk as strong,  
as his friends do. He said  
that as far as you were  
concerned he thought it  
was all right, but he  
had been told that Coch-  
ran was a good man  
he is right now, but  
Cochran may make  
mistakes where we do not  
expect. John says he says  
both Purby & Medina said  
that they promised to vote  
right. I presume the election of  
Herrin disposes of him, have  
you any news from the North?

Truly  
Sam M Kelley  
1858

Mifflintown Dec 10./ 58

Col Eli Slifer

Dear Sir

I have had no word from that money will it come. I had a letter last night from J M Pomeroy in which he says he fears that some of the City members may go for Taggart. I suppose you do not Scream enough for them can you do any thing more in that quarter. I still think Cochran is the dangerous man. I had a talk myself with Mr {Wetherson?} the Mifflin Co member

[page break]

He dont talk as strong as his friends do. he said that as far as you were concerned he thought it was all right, but he had been told that Cochran was a good man he is right now, but Cochran may make inroads where we do not expect. John says he saw both Bursby & Wigdon and that they promised to vote right I presume the election of Keim disposes of him, have you any news from the North?

Truly  
Jas M Sellers