

JIM McNEILL TO MACK

Sept the 16th /60
West Unity Williams/Ohio

Respected friend it is with pleasure that I embrace this opportunity to address a few lines to you to let you know that we are all well at this time. Hoping those few lines will find you and your relatives enjoying the same. I received yours bearing date Aug 12th, 60. It gave me pleasure to hear that you was able to get round even by the slow mode you mentioned (crawling) I hope ere this reaches you you will all be upon your feet; hearty and rugged. I would have written to you sooner but I thought I would put it off till after the Union Fair of West Fulton Cos Ohio. there was considerable fine Stock on exhibition the Mechanical arts was well presented & the agricultural production was excellent tell Will Ewing that old Jas took the first premium [prize] on brood Mares which was \$3.00. her foal that was foaled on 26th of April/60 was the best foal on the grounds [the rest of this page is too dim to read]

I was up at Isaac Ewingses two weeks ago they was well at that time. I heard from them yesterday. Mc has had chills since that. he is well again. Isaac had the chills this summer. you invited me to come up and go south with you to your college-School this fall. as I can not be with you which I regret. I wish you success in climbing the hill of science which no man has reached the summit. I scratch a little at the base once in a while but I am not persevering enough [enough] to get a long. now Hank if you will come down here we will go to the Union School at West Unity. I have got the prettiest 3 year old mare in this part of the country. at least a good many has told me so. we can make a Sleigh (for we have both worked in wood at least I have chopped some fire wood) & when sleighing is good we can hitch Saley to it & go in a hurry to School when it is not there will be an other young Horse at your service & we can go a Horse back. faith & we havent but one Saddle but diddy has got a shape skin & there is plenty of linbark for stirrups. Hank I am in earnest about going to school this winter if you come it will cost you only \$3.50 for three months Schooling. the School is graded and that will give us a much better chance

Mother has just come from Hollinshead. Permelia is very low; & is worse today than she has been since your father & mother was here. James Jenkinses folks are nearly all down with the chills the rest of your folks are well so far as know. I bought a Lincoln medal and his life last Monday. if we had not a divine promise that the world would not be destroyed by water I would not know but the second deluge was opened upon us. I think that 40 days & 40 nights would set us swimming.

Monday morning there is a prospect of a clear cool day I have not written so much as expected too. answer this soon fail not & let me know whether you are coming down to go to School or not. if you are I will be able in my next letter & give me biggest & best specks to all inquiring friends I will close myself your friend from

Jim Mc

too
Henry Mc. Ewing

Mr H. M. Ewing
Esteemed friend

it is with great pleasure that I embrace this opportunity to respond to your brief epistle. I am well except a bad cough. you stated in your letter that you dare not come so far from home on account of those delirious spasms to which you are subject, but just try it and if you do any

devilment on that account, I will give your bail so now come along. Tell Martha that I am very very sorry that she cannot come Here to school for I fel very lonesome, before I became acquainted with the girls, but now it is very pleasant only she is not here. The bell is ringing and I will have to start to school pretty soon or I shall be too late. I will finish writing this evening. I cannot think of any thing to write I had to go to Mr Booths to sharpen my pencil and I will have to go again I guess for it is broken. I was at the fair saturday there were a great many curious thngs to be seen. Oh no Mc do come down here and visit School, I cannot recommend the young ladies as very good looking but come and see your frends and write soon. I am here in town and attend to the Office evry evening. Good bye Beck,Mc }Beck Mcneill

Note: The letter has no envelope. It is written in a combination of ink and pencil, and contains the first reference in this correspondence to Abraham Lincoln and his candidacy for President of the United States.

WKE 121296