

Letter from John Brothers to cousin Wm Griffin - Mar 15 1825

GR Piece 67

Poll House Alphington
Nr Exeter

March 15th 1825

Dear Cousin

I was not aware of your being married when I wrote you last or I should have heartily congratulated you as I am sure you will now very soon extricate yourself from the many difficulties you have had to encounter, particularly with a partner like Mrs Griffin who I am sure is possessed of every good quality both as respects a good house Wife and an amiable partner you must already perceive a wonderful difference as to your housekeeping between that extravagant housekeeper old Molly whose only study was her own comfort no matter at what expense, and the management of Mrs Griffin who I am confident only seeks your welfare.

I always had a great wish to hear of your marriage as your good nature and good opinion of the world have often caused you to be imposed upon - besides I am sure real happiness is only to be found in an agreeable partner & for my own part I never knew what comfort was when rambling about in a single state - had I have been made acquainted with your intention previous to that happy day I should have insisted on your spending a few weeks with us on such a joyous occasion but really those things are managed in such a sly way now a days that it is quite news to me three months after it has taken place witness our friend Edmd. at Shoreditch and many others -

I should be extremely happy to avail myself of your kind offer by bringing Mrs Brothers to Warwickshire this summer and she would I am sure be equally proud to find she had such an agreeable cousin as Mrs Griffin and I will venture to say they would be most friendly together but being so much occupied in my farm I am afraid I must defer it for a short time altho' I am extremely anxious to see you and sincerely wish we were living near each other but of course it would be quite out of the question to leave Stockton as things turn out so favourably and to all appearance likely to remain so, and nothing could afford me more pleasure than to hear you are likely to recover the money old Tom so carefully buried for you in the drains.

Things are now got to a very fair price and the Country in a very flourishing state and I hope we shall all live to see better days notwithstanding my brother Tom's assertion to the contrary but seeing his prediction did not come to pass he has taken himself off, no doubt disappointed, not however before he has set all parties at variance as far as lay in his power and it may perhaps be considered ungenerous since he is gone in accusing him of all the family disputes, at least since I returned from Sea, he had a peculiar method of making his case good even in the most unjustifiable act and could easily set one person at variance with another when he pleased.

The active part he induced me to take in the affair with your family had I am sure nearly lost me your valuable friendship as I am sure you considered I had no right to have interfered which in point of fact was the case, I was however guided by the purest motives knowing that his obstinacy might have involved your mother into difficulties and altho' it might at last have been decided in her favour still it was a most unpleasant affair and I felt a satisfaction in having assisted in bringing it to a conclusion - soon after which he wanted the drafts Cashed in order to purchase the House but not having anyone he could ask he prevailed on me to ask Mr Jeffkins to do it - then the Signature of

my father was required and this I also procured him with a promise he should enjoy it during his life at a fixed rent of 24 pr Annum - he then prevailed on me to sign an agreement to pay 8£ a year at the same time promising he would only expect me to pay 1/5 the rest to be paid by my father and lastly when he found I could not serve him any longer he quit the agreement in full face and as I have before mentioned caused me to be worsted, there is perhaps not another instance of a more unnatural or ungrateful proceeding since our tion - for all however I sincerely forgive him and hope he will be able to live comfortable in that land of freedom as it accords so well with his ideas -

I feel extremely obliged by your interesting yourself on my father's account, you could not bestow a greater favour on me than by occasionally letting me know how he gets on when you write to me which I hope will be more frequent and I have no doubt my father will pay the rent regularly when he gets the field in his own hands and he ought to consider it a generous action in your voluntarily becoming responsible for him.

It may perhaps appear strange I had not done but you know my father would not feel himself so far bound to pay it was I answerable for the rent and really at the present time it is not convenient for me to pay 24£ pr. annum - respecting the 8£ due at Lady Day next I will forward it in any way Mr Simpson may think proper to propose but having no agent I cannot remit it from London - when you hear my name called in question I know you will do me justice respecting my brother's behaviour to me and as I have such a great wish to have done with him I wish you would pay the money for me and take the proper receipt and when you favour me with another letter I will remit the money by return of Post either by an order on the Post Office or enclose it - please to tell my father I do not wish to have the dog as he is now getting too old to send so far and the Gentleman I wanted the bitch for is desirous of having a bitch puppy to breed from, he may perhaps be able to procure me one no matter how young or blue or Black, if so I will enclose a note to pay the expence of carriage and shall very soon send him the five Pounds as he is particularly anxious to turn it.

I really think I should come (.....) if you could meet with a snug little farm pretty near you, I should not have much objection to old father Bais's dove house if he would (....) me some of his b-e-s-t L-a-n-d as I am so particular partial to farming and with a little of your assistance with my present Income I am pretty sure I could make it answer - when you write me next let me know if old Quinny (?) has left his House and if it is to be sold or let - I always had a great wish for that place and was it to be sold I would endeavour to buy it - pray send me an account of all the little places which are at present to be let or sold in your neighbourhood as I should prefer being near you was I to return to Warwickshire - you never told me who your brother Geo. had married, I wish him success and I think he will do well - has he taken his next door neighbour? Remember me to all my old friends in your neighbourhood and I regret my paper will not allow me to say much more.

Mrs Brothers returns her best thanks to you and Mrs Griffin and we should both be extremely happy to see you and as things turn out so favourably you might treat Mrs Griffin with a journey to Devon and I am sure you will be highly delighted with this fine County. I do not ask you out of compliment but should really be extremely happy, the expence in travelling but trifling and as you have always promised me you would pay me a visit if I settled in England I shall really expect you - when you see your brother John you will say it is my most particular wish he would manage your business in your absence and he will oblige me by pressing you to come. I hope he is enjoying is health at present. I expect to hear of his being caught next and rather wonder he allowed Geo. to take his turn - I hope you will not mention any thing concerning my wish to return to W.Shire not even to my father but was you to pay me a visit we could talk it over & many other things - if you take in a Paper pray send it to me and I will return you a Devonshire one .

I understand by a letter from my cousin Edmd. that your good old aunt at Marston was dangerously ill - when you see her remember me most kindly to her. When you go to Itchington give our kind love to my father & Mother and in hopes this will find you in good health.

Tell my mother little
Amy is with us from Bath

I remain Dr. Cousin
ever truly yours

John Brothers

(Cover)

E X E T E R

M A I L

Mr Griffin

Stockton

Nr. Southam

Warwickshire

(Seal)