cause of temperance is looked upon as an infidel it is so
intimately connected with Christ's kingdom. Their is a new
bankrupt law passed lately in Congress and since that their has
about 24 people broken down in Mount Morris and taken the benefit
of it A labouring man can break here as well as the extensivist
Merchant if he can only get deep enough in debt. The law allows a
man that breaks down to keep three hundred Dollars worth of
property. Let me know how William Symington is getting along in
America. Let me know where Robert Chishom is now. Let me know
what Adam Lirton is doing give my compliments to JHames Brunton
of Skirk mills he promised to write to me I believe he has
forgot I wish you would bring him in mind of it. I believe I must
stop here Margaret says that she wants all the other side to give
Marry a blowing up

Ashburn November the 10th

1844

[Original of this letter is not included]

Dear Friends

I take my pen in my hand to write to you to let you know
that we are well hoppin this will find you all the same you
will no doubt be surprised at being so long in hearing from us. The
reason is this we left Mount Morris in April and came to
Wisconsin. I did not receive an answer to my last letter from
you before I left and I left word with a friend at Mt Morris to
get my letter and forward it to me as soon as it arrived at the
post office and we kept waiting and expecting a letter every week
until we got out of patience and I wrote to an acquaintance at Mt
Morris and he informed me that the man that was to forward my
letter left the place soon after we did. and we have received
no letter from you these sixteen months past we left Mt Morris
the 18th of April and landed at Milwaukee in seven days we came
all the way by water we came on the canal to Buffalo Got a steam
Boat at Buffalo went up Lake Erie out of Lake Erie into Lake St
Clair out of Lake St Clair into Lake Huron out of Lake Huron
into Lake Michigan Wisconsin is a beautiful Country the land is
rich and productive and the county is well watered their is
thousands and thousands of acres of land can be bought here and
no timber growing on it for ten shillings an acre I have bought
one hundred and sixty acres about thirty miles from Milwaukee it
is first rate land and a beautiful stream of water running
through it and plenty of sugar maple to make sugar but if we are
spared next spring we mean to go in to it our neighbours here
last spring made from five to twelve hundred pounds of sugar each
besides, barrels of molasses and vinegar and sold all the sugar
that they did not want for their own use for ten cents a pound
and molasses for six shillings a gallon one gallon of it is worth
two of the trake that you buy at Selkirk. Their is a good many
Scotch people here their is ten Scotch families all within a few
miles of us we have two Scotchmen for neighbours their land joins
mine and we have two Englishmen on another side the others are
Yankees I like the Yankees better than either Scotch or English for
neighbours their is a saw mill within half a mile of my house I
can draw my own wood to the saw mill and have it sawed and draw
back my boards and have any quantity of lumber that I want for building purposes I have got a yoke of oxen and two cows I have got in eight acres of wheat this fall it looks very well I raised about a hundred and forty bushels of potatoes and some corn last season I did not expect to raise any thing it was late in the spring before we got settled I had to get a house built after we came here but we have got pretty comfortably settled now and nothing to do but to raise a living of our land it is all paid for and every thing that we have got is paid for and I think this is a very healthy Country we have all enjoyed very good health since we came here and our children also John is Learning to read and little Andrew is walking alone two months ago John says his Grandfather is coming from Selkirk and he is going to bring him a house and dig our land lies on the side of a public road their is people passing and repassing every day our nearest neighbor is within three hundred yards of us on the opposite side of the road we don’t want neighbors any higher Margaret is so much of a Yanke now that she likes the Yankees better for neighbors than she does the scotch I expect that you will write as soon as you receive this letter it is so long since we heard from you we must write often or we will get more out of acquaintance I would like if you would send me a newspaper sometimes get a large sheet and fill it close up and send us everything that you think will be interesting their must have been a great many ups and downs about Selkirk since we left it will soon be five years Margaret was saying the other evening that when she looked back and thought about Selkirk it appeared like a dream to her Their was a great storm at Buffalo about the middle of October the water rose in the lake about fifteen feet in twenty minutes and threw the ships out of the harbor onto the streets went into cellars and low houses and knocked down houses and destroyed property to the amount of five hundred thousand dollars I did not hear how many lives was lost. When I wrote last we did not intend to come to Wisconsin until the month of September but we thought that it would be too late in the fall and perhaps the cold weather would set in before we got settled Mr Alphonse wanted me to stay with him he never dreamed that I had any thought of leaving him he told me when I was coming away that if I did not like the Country or if I did not find things according to my expectations to come back to him again I should have my place again just as I left it

Dear

Father I am wearying very much to hear from you I never longed so much to hear from you all as I do now since we left we have got a place of our own now and I enjoy it very much you all told me that I was foolish to leave home but I have never had any reason to regret leaving home yet we have attained the object that we left home for now by long perseverance and industry I have got two fine little boys John is growing a big strong fellow he is very fond of his father Andrew is the prettiest little boy that you ever saw he runs round and plays all day long John and him takes a great deal of comfort together Dear Sister send
me word how you and your little boy is give my best respects to
Isabella Brow and all my old acquaintances Dear Brother I hope
you and your family are well I would like verry much to see you
all and I expect I will if we be all spared I ad no more but
Remains affectionatley yours J M Douglas