

Letter to W J Green from Edward Woodman advising him of the death of his Uncle Benjamin

Jacksonville Illinois

U.S.A.

July 20<sup>th</sup> 1883

Mr Wm J Green

Wakefield

Yorkshire England

Dear Sir,

Your letter of March 15<sup>th</sup> 83 was handed me yesterday. I am sorry to inform you that your Uncle Benjamin Green (my Father in Law) died on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of June 1882. I married his oldest daughter, Mary then the widow Oakes in December 1866. I was appointed Executor of the will in the Estate of Benjamin Green Deceased and the Estate is for sale 320 acres which the heirs hold at about sixty five or seventy dollars per acre it is a splendid farm with excellent buildings, mature orchard and a very valuable rock quarry on it and about 50 acres of timber splendid hedge fence round the farm. I am now offering the place at Private sale for seventy dollars per acre and will give time on part payment it is a very desirable farm and in an excellent locality about 5 miles from the Illinois River and ½ mile from Naback Rail Road station where there are grain houses, cattle yards and many communities(???)

We also have a Farm on the Illinois River of 412 acres we will sell at Forty dollars per acre one third cash the balance on a long time as a person wants it at a reasonable interest , it is very productive farm and the man that wants it this year is now threshing the wheat and will have near three thousand bushels of wheat off of about 150 acres last year. He had a fine crop of wheat and near six thousand bushel of corn. It is a splendid grazing farm also and very rich soil they never use any manure in fact either farm only about six miles apart are River Valley Farm and there is no better soil in the state.

In reply to your question about feeding sheep and cattle this section of Illinois is well adapted for that business, Henry and Charles Oakes my wife's sons feed each from one hundred to 2 hundred head of cattle every year and twice that amount of hogs and sometimes sheep. Wheat is now worth 90 cents to one dollar per bushel ( 60 pounds) and corn about 50 cents oats now crop about 30 cents per bushel potatoes 50 cents per bushel, rye, barley, beans etc are not raised much here. Wheat, corn oats and potatoes are the cereals that pay and they can be raised here in abundance.

Cattle sheep and hogs are always in demand and bring fair prices, will send you a paper of the markets.

We are very sorry your letter was so long in reaching us or would have written sooner, the mistake was the letter was directed to Bluff City which is the Schyler County over one hundred miles from here, it was forwarded to the Bluffs Scott County on the 30<sup>th</sup> of June.

We shall be very glad to see you if you visit this county this summer, will find us at Jacksonville, Ill which is about 20 miles from the Bluffs on the Naback Rail Road

Would be please to hear from you and any information I can give you will be given cheerfully.

Please say to Eleanor whose letter accompanied yours we appreciate her letter very much as would Father Green were he living but he has crossed the shining River and is awaiting all his friends on the other shore . He was 82 years old on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of January 82 so at his death was 82 years and 5 months. He was taken with a skin disease called Litchen about the beginning of the year and suffered very much from the disease a month before he died he became delirious but was always praising God and was prepared to go. He buried his last wife in 1879 and his niece Margaret Dickenson Smith kept house for him until his death. He was a good true and affectionate man a devout Christian and owed no man a dollar. He left an unencumbered property and many friends. His family left are one son and three daughters all married and well settled

Must now conclude shall be much pleased to hear from you very soon and may do you good very restfully

Edward Woodman

Post Office Box 805

Jacksonville

Morgan County

Illinois

America