



" FAMILY of FAMED EXPLORER ONCE LIVED ~~in~~ BRANDON "

Why was Carver Street in Brandon village so named ? The answer will not be difficult to one who delves a little into the early history of the town. For the Carvers were numerous and prominent here in the latter part of the 18th century and beginning of the 19th.

Captain Jonathan Carver was born in Massachusetts in 1710. He married Abigail Robbins in 1746, and moved to Montague, Mass, in 1749. He served in the Colonial Army throughout the French and Indian War (1755-1763) being a captain at capture of Fort William Henry, where he was wounded. At the end of the war he resolved to explore the territory east of the Mississippi acquired by Great Britain from France, and started on his expedition in June 1766. In all he travelled as much as 7,000 miles, making friends of the Indians, with whom he spent much time. This was a tremendous feat, considering the means of transportation then, first by stage, then by canoes, boats, horseback and on foot. He returned to civilization in 1768 and, having spent his entire fortune in his explorations, he sailed for England in 1769, where he petitioned the Government for reimbursement. He received nothing, except permission to publish an account of his travels. He passed the remainder of his life in England, where the first edition of his book, (London, 1778) appeared with the title "Three Years Travels through the Interior Parts of North America". For this he received nothing beyond the expense of publication, and in 1780 he died in London in poverty. No trace of his grave remains today, as the graveyard wherein he was buried was built over and disappeared. After his death there arose a great demand for his book, and many editions were published in England, Ireland and America. It became and was for many years the great source of information on the regions which he explored. Early editions are now scarce and command good prices. My copy was published in Philadelphia in 1796. An edition published in Rutland has practically disappeared. A copy turned up some years ago and was bought by the American Antiquarian Society of Worcester, Mass, for \$50. A biographical sketch may be found in the Encyclopedia of American Biography. The portrait shows a soldierly figure, attired in colonial costume, with a prepossessing countenance, indicating intelligence and culture.

Capt. Carver had nine children, seven by his first wife, and two by his second wife, whom he married in London. Of the children by his first wife, all but the first two were born in Montague, Mass. His second daughter, Abigail, married Joshua Goss of Montague, in 1774, and some time after the outbreak of the Revolutionary war they came to Brandon, where Goss bought a tract of 110 acres, located on the road now leading to the Arnold District, a little north of the present Brandon State School. Here he built his log house and remained till 1796, when he sold his land and bought a farm of 180 acres, which is now the town farm, where he built a frame house, on the site of the present farm house and kept tavern there for many years, it being on the stage route between Boston and Montreal.

Rufus, son of Capt. Jonathan Carver, was born in 1754, and married Pricilla Cummings in 1780. He was a soldier in the Revolutionary war, and took part in the battle of Bunker Hill and in the campaign in which Burgoyne and his troops were taken prisoners. He and his wife moved to Brandon, where his wife died in 1832, aged 73 years, as her gravestone in the cemetery at the Congregational church attests. Rufus had nine children, of whom the following lived in Brandon : Fanny, born 1781, married 1795 Seth Keeler at Brandon ; Sally, born 1788, married at Brandon 1815 Ebenezer Warner; Abigail, married at Brandon David R. Beal in 1811; Olive, married at Brandon Walter Cooley in 1813; Mindwell (a good name for a child, also for a married woman) married Henry Ambler at Brandon in 1826; Polly, died at Brandon 1827, aged 30; Lucy, died at Brandon 1803, aged 14 months. At some date not known Capt Jonathan Carver's wife Abigail came to Brandon and died here in 1802 at the age of 72. That she was a woman who occupied a place in the affections of those who knew her is shown by the inscription on her stone in the aforesaid cemetery :

COPY of ARTICLE PRINTED IN THE BRANDON UNION
By Edward S. Marsh, of Brandon

continued

" Abigail carver. Died Nov.9th, 1802, in the 73d year of her age.
A virtuous wife, a mother dear, To friends & neighbors very near,
She left them all in peace and love, We trust who's gone to dwell above."

" It is known that she was here in 1800, as in that year her son-in-law, Joshua Goss, conveyed to "widow Abigail Carver" a tract of 77 acres of land in consideration of \$500.

There seems to be no record of what Capt. Carver was doing during the nine or ten years between his arrival in England and the publication of his book. He seems to have been a little careless about his marital obligations, as he married a woman in England, in spite of the fact that he had a wife living in America. He may have revisited this country, and if so may have come to Brandon to see his daughter and son-in-law. At any rate a man of his fame, and having so many of his family here, must have been well known here by reputation, at least, and Carver Street may have been named in his honor particularly, and that of the family in general, or perhaps as a joint memorial to him and his son Rufus, the Revolutionary soldier. At any rate it perpetuates the name and memory of the famous traveller, explorer and author, and so far as known is the only such memorial in existence.

A daughter of Joshua Goss married Dr. Adoniram Smalley, the father of Orange Smalley, who collaborated with Thomas Davenport in his invention of the electric motor, and so the Carvers and the Smalleys became intermingled. The only descendant of these two families now living in town is Carver Smalley, who is the great-great-great grandson of Captain Jonathan Carver. "

For much of this data see "THE CARVER FAMILY OF NEW ENGLAND
ROBERT CARVER of Marshfield
AND HIS DESCENDANTS "

Compiled by CLIFFORD N. CARVER, Litt. B.

PRIVATELY PRINTED 1935

Copyright by
Clifford N. Carver
Searsport, Maine
Published by
The Tuttle Publishing Co., Inc.
Rutland, Vermont.

COPIES OF LETTERS CONCERNING CARVER CLAIM

I

Addressed to Mr. Samuel Harrison, Chittenden, State of Vermont
Notation on outside : An account of the Death of
Capt. Jon^a Carver with the inscription on his
graves Feb^y 1805

Martha Carver, Daughter of Captⁿ Jonathan Carver by his wife Mary (maiden name Burgess of Froome, Somersetshire, & widow of Capt Charles Harris of the Royal Navy) born 12. August. 1779 & Baptized in Lambeth - married to John Pope 30 Jan 7, 1779 at St Ann's Lymhouse - have a daughter, named Martha Mary, born at Dover 6 December 1802 & Baptized at St Mary's - in Dover.

John Jonathan Carver, son of Captⁿ Jonathan Carver and Mary Carver his wife born in Goswell Street 1775 and died in Tooley (?) Street 3 November 1790 & buried at St. Mary's Overborough in 15th year of his age. His mother died, same time, and was buried with him.

Capt Jonathan Carver, born at Stillwater 1732 in the State of New York & died in Holywell Mount Shoreditch Parish, London on 31 January 1780 and buried in Baptist Burying Ground in Holywell Mount & Gravestones erected by his widow - in the following Words - "Here lie the remains of Captain Jonathan Carver who departed this life January 31st A.D 1780 aged 48 years, many years Commander of a Company of Foot in America. a Man greatly respected and lamented by all his acquaintances. This Stone is erected by his disconsolate Widow as a Small Tribute to the Memory of an affectionate and loving Husband and tender Father to his Children.

Written st side of paper
Mary his widow) died
John Jonathan his Son November
have no Gravestones) 3d 1790

Written at side of paper
Taken off by me Samuel
Peters this 4th day of
Feb^y 1805

Opposite page is rough map of "Grant to
Capt Jonathⁿ
Carver"

II

Addressed to M^r Samuel Harrison, Chittenden, in the State of Vermont

No 53 Westsmithfield London March 5th 1805

Dear Sir (M^r Sam^l Harrison, of Chittenden Vermont)

I have sent you two parcels of letters in Jan^y & February, via, New York to the care of M^r Albert(?) Ryekman, and W^m Birdseye Peters Esq^r. March (?) respecting Captⁿ Carver and the Indian Deed of Land adjoining to the East End of St Anthony's Falls in the River Mississippi 125 miles N.W. of Chipeway River which falls into the South End of Lake Pepin through which runs the Mississippi. Carver's Grant extends E. up the Chipeway River 100 miles - thus you see the Location of Carver's Land. Mr. Matthew Cox informed me that the Document respecting Carver's Grant were in possession of Mr. John Coles of New York, but has not told me that the original Deed given by the Sachens to Carver is with M^r Coles - W.B. Peters, Esq^r will be a

COPIES OF LETTERS CONCERNING CARVER CLAIM

Letter No 2. continued

proper Person for you to employ to enquire of Mr Cole . . I fear Captⁿ Carver has sold more than the 3,000,000 Acres to R. Smith Esq^r. New Reports reach me daily and I suspect such Tricks have been plaid off against the Daughter here & Children there of Captⁿ Carver that will render their Interest in the Land if recovered precarious, while the Expense with Congress and the Indian Sachems will be certain & great. If Rufus Carver & his Brother & Sisters are not rich Eno(?) to carry on the Search I should advise them to make use of an Assistant to find the Money Etc.Etc. & to accept a Share of the Land on its being recovered.

I wish the Children of Captⁿ Carver may defeat the Machinations of their Enemies. I perceive that Matthew Cox has done all in his Power by help of Mr John Coles, Mr Rufus King & Mr Pinekney (?) and others to obtain the President's Approbation of the Indian Deed in favor of Mr & Mrs Pope only, as they took Letters of Administration on Captⁿ Carver's Estate at Doctors Commons, and as such empowered Cox to act for them in England & America, not knowing or Suspecting Captⁿ Carver had any Children in America - It seems to me that Cox & and his Connections had a design to obtain the Land for themselves & not for Mr & Mrs Pope, as they held up the Idea that Captⁿ Carver had sold most of the Land in Sundry Parcels to R^d Smith & others whose Deeds are held in Patto(?) to be used against Pope & his wife when the Lands are recovered under their names & Power.

Mr Cox is not willing to believe Rufus, etc, etc, are Children of Captⁿ Jonathan Carver but hold them up as Children of a Brother of Captⁿ Carver - Those things should not discourage Rufus etc.etc. from Speedy Exertions toward securing their Claim. Rest assured that the State of New York will oppose the Claim of Carver because that State claimed all the Western Territory between Lat 41 - and Lat 45 to the Western Ocean by Royal Instructions excepting only what has been taken out by Royal Charters - on this Ground the State of New York ceded(?) their Right and Claim to the Western Territory to Congress & so vested Congress with their Right & Claim to the Land granted to Captⁿ Carver. this idle Claim of New York will be used against Carver's Grant with a view to prevent those who bought shares in Carver's Grant being benefitted & to give Congress the sole right to purchase the fee of the Chipeway Tribe for a trifle & then to Sell it for two dollars per Acre. If you have not Strength & Policy enough to bear down such National Arguments at Congress, Carver's Children will lose their Claim

Nevertheless I advise them to do all in their Power to gain their Right. and after putting before Congress their Claim & Petition; a Man well skilled should be Sent with a Copy of the Original Deed to the Indian Chiefs to gain their approbation of their Ancestors Grant to Captⁿ Carver which will be a Strong Argument for a confirmation of it by the President & of Congress. The extent of Carver's Grant is said to amount to 12,000,000 Acres & by others 6,000,000 Acres . the least makes it to be larger than the State of Vermont. The Presents Sachems undoubtedly know its bounds by Tradition tho Mr Cox says the Chiefs of the Chipeways and of the Noudowiss (?) never heard of Capt J. Carver Name or of any Deed granted to him - he would not tell me that he or Mr Coles had sent a Messenger to make the Enquiry of the Indians - but I find a Man named Clark was sent with (goods) to them some years ago who was murdered & and Robbed on the way by some white hunters - whatever you do in this concern use Speed and caution and as much Privacy as Possible. My Son W.B. Peters Esq^r would make you the best Messenger among the Indians if you can prevail on him to undertake the Journey .

Adieu S. Peters.

COPIES OF LETTERS CONCERNING THE CARVER CLAIM

III

Addressed to Mr Samuel Harrison, Chittenden, County of Rutland, Vermont.

London 22 d April 1805

My dear Sir.

I wrote you on Jan^y 12, Feb^{6th} & 26. again on the 5 of March 1805 respecting the Land granted to Captⁿ Carver by the two Sachems & have been searching for the original Deed without finding it - I find Captⁿ Carver sold a Quarter of the whole to R. Smith and two thirds of the whole to A.B.C. and D and gave Deeds accordingly. which left only one 12th to his Heirs. and People here from N. York tell me Rufus and Jonathan Carver & their Sisters Sold the greater part on Speculation since 1792. The People who bought on this side of the Atlantic will not sell their Rights, but intend to Claim after Carver's Children have been at the Expense of getting the Deed ratified by Congress & the present Sachems of the Nowdowisies. . whether Congress will allow the printed copy is a Question but suppose they do - it is doubtful whether the Indians will allow it. if they should the Expenses will rise to a great Height. Those Deeds given by Capt Carver were not in Law because he had no right to the Land until his Deed was ratified by the King which was never done & Carver's Children's Deeds since are not for the same Reason - because Congress have not ratified the Deed - Carver's Children ought not to bear the Expense if able while Strangers Claim the Land as theirs -

You will find what number of Acres have been Sold by the Children of Captⁿ Carver in America & then you will be able to give them advice whether to go on or Stay where they are - I will advise them to give one General Quitclaim Deed of the whole to A.B. which warrants against the Claims of all the Heirs of Jonathan Carver deceased - and under the General Quitclaim Deed let A.B. pay all Expenses at Congress & with the Indians and if A.B. gets possession of the Territory, then A.B. to be held to give a number of Acres to each Son and Daughter of Captⁿ Carver.

But mind this, Rufus Carver his Sisters & Brother must suffer A.B. to use their Names in the Petition, as if they alone were concerned in suing for the Land - because the Name of Carver will be the Strongest Argument you have to succeed with Congress & the Indians. When Possession has been gained by A.B. & A.B. has given Deeds to Children as per contract then Carver's Children must go & Settle on the Land and each build a House in Carversville near the mouth of Chippewaw River in a limited Time, & the first Settler shall have his choice of a Block of Land in said City to build on, & so the Second comer to have the next Claim until 400 Houses are erected. the City Lots should not exceed half an Acre Each - all made in right Angles.

to shun all Claimants A.B. must have the Indians ratify their Deed to Capt Carver by giving a new Deed to A.B. the Assignee of Carver's Children and the Title be new and to a different Person - then all old things will be done away.

If my Ideas strike yours, I hope to meet you at Carversville with Mr & Mrs Pope & all the Children of Captⁿ Carver in 1806.

I wish you to consult Rufus Carver etc.etc. and advise them how to act & if agreeable to see my son, William Birdseye Peters Esqr of Stratford in Connecticut, or at Mr Albert Ryekman's House in New York, a Merchant there, who will be better able to communicate matters to you than I can write & will be your best Guide I know of in America in this uncertain concern.

The Carvers under existing circumstances I think will never receive Benefit from that Land only in the way I have above hinted. My Son is capable & will be ready to advise and assist in raising the money to try the will & pleasure of Congress where the first step is - & the second is to go to the Indians. Silence & Expedition is the Safty of your Application. it will prevent opposition & future Law Suits, if my plan is successful - You will note the Fall of St Anthony is West of Niagara Fall 450 miles & the Climate is much milder than Vermont or Detroit. Please write to my son the result of your doings with Carver's Children. I despair of ever finding the original Deed. The ---- of L --- (London ?) under Capt Carver are not honest enough to do any Justice to the Children of Carver in America pretending

COPIES OF LETTERS CONCERNING CARVER CLAIM

Letter III continued

to act only for Martha Pope - meaning themselves - if R. Carver's Letter soon reaches Martha Pope it may open things to your faithful Samuel Peters
Sam^l Harrison Esq^r

IV

Mutilated Letter - One quarter of lower half of sheet missing.
Would think it was written by Rufus Carver
Dated Brandon, Vermont June 5th 1805

Dear Sister

Last week I recd an invitation from Saml Harrison in Chittenden to pay him an immediate visit accompanied by my son-in-law - Mr Harrison's Wife's Nephew S. Keeler. What could occasion the pressure for attendance immediately I could not devise For the card was not sufficiently intelligible to admit explanation. I think it was in nearly in these words ' Chittenden May 2(?) 1805 The pleasure of a Visit is immediately expected from S. Keeler on the receipt this and your wife's Father Rufus Carver Esq^r I hope will not fail bearing you company - The charm is broken - the gloom dispells - Farewell Your affectionate uncle S. Harrison.'

We accordingly attended but what was my surprise when I beheld soon after my arrival a letter from the Revd Dr S. Peters a letter in answer to Mr Harrison giving me the much desired information I had been so long seeking in vain. I had the intelligence the delightful intelligence of a long unknown sister being alive and well and married and had one infant to inherit her Virtues - (Quarter is torn here)

Believe the last half of this sheet is a copy
of a letter written to John & Martha Pope, Dover Eng.
Think Rufus Carver is writing his Sister (above) what
he has written the English relatives) (Nothing important)

Dear Brother and Sister (This is near the bottom of first page - the other side starts:
Father and Benefactor - My dear Brother and Sister we have one interest in the business That is to get confirmed from the President of the United States the Title which our Father with the most unwearied Patience Indefatigable Toil & conciliatory address has so justly acquired Let us unitedly pursue this object until the children here and the child there their Heirs and Assigns get (---?) that Indian Deed which will enable us all to possess that share of Property if rightly improved will place us above the intrigues, malice and caprice of a (---) few who have hitherto by their impositions been trying to betray us for their own emolument - I understand you have employed Dr Peters to conduct for you this important Business. His Character is highly esteemed in Vermont We have employed S H - in whom we can place the utmost confidence though not a professed Attorney he is possed of a/ information and his integrity remains impeachable. In such hands we hope it will have a fortunate issue. My Brother and sisters all with me join in love and respects to you, my dear Sister, you my Brother and your lovely Infant hoping it will not be long before we shall meet you in America and unitedly share with our Posterity the Land of our common Father and benefactor Till then I shall subscribe myself your

Mr John & Mrs Martha Pope
Dover Kent

Affectionate Brother

signed R.C.

COPIES OF LETTERS CONCERNING CARVER CLAIM

Samuel Harrison to
President Thomas Jefferson

(Copy of letter sent to President)
(Jefferson)

Chittenden V^t June 13th 1805

His Ex - T - J - P - - U. S.

Sir

Having the temerity to approach your Exec -y four weeks ago I beg leave to again solicit your attention to ----- unknown individual on the subject of Capt Carver's Indian Claim. I then mentioned to your Excellency that I was employed by a son of the late Capt in behalf of his children to pursue every legal measure to validate the claim to his posterity their (word lost) and assigns. I besought your advice on the same But have no answer - And since I have ventured to embark on the ocean " I have attempted to navigate the Supernumerary Stream."

I informed your Excellency I had written to a gentleman in London (?) capable of dispelling the mysterious gloom which had involved in obscurity the affair of Capt Carver And that I was hourly & anxiously expecting a return.

I wrote to your Excellency on the 15th of May, and on the 22nd I received a letter from my correspondent dated Feb. 12 containing much (marked out) it gave me some information and giving intelligence of a Packet sent to me Six days before containing all he was pleased to express himself - all he yet knew on the subject. The Packet I have not yet received. His intelligence corroborated what I before surmised and had hinted to your Excellency that Capt Carver married again after he had heard the Death of his Wife and had one Daughter born in England. (words gone, think "that she") married and had one child - That many people imagined her to be an only child not knowing Capt Carver had been married in America. And many had tried to deceive and marry her for the sake of her Mississippi property thinking her heiress to the whole - That both Englishmen and Americans had practised the Deception and intimated that R.C. (Rufus Carver) and his brother and sisters were impostors (?) endeavoring to rob her of her legal rights and had not (too fine writing cannot decipher) The Lady's name is now Martha Pope and is convinced that Capt Carver was married in America and is willing her transatlantic relatives should share with her and has employed S.P - LLD (Samuel Peters, Vermont Clergyman) to negotiate her business and assist me in obtaining from your excellency together with the present sachems a confirmation of their claim. Dr. Peters has desired me to make no delay but give immediate information to Mr Smith (a Vermont Senator) whom he calls one of your members of Congress. For fear some sly trick manoeuvre should give into the hands of Mr Cox and his party at Philadelphia some undue advantage.

As I had before made communication to your Excellency I waited some time expecting the Packet but my expectations are yet frustrated and I cannot yet gain any intelligence of its Fate. On the (4th Inst ?) I wrote back an answer to the Gentleman that I had already addressed ^{up} your Excellency and though I respected Mr Smith with our other Vermont Member, as I had with any of them an intimate acquaintance I should not attempt to introduce myself (to) them to make intercession for another introduction - (I) find myself embarrassed for want of the Packet that I cannot lay before your Excellency those Particulars I expect it contains but I expect the Claim was not ratified by the British Government by this clause in the Doctor's (Peters) letter "hat Mr and Mrs Pope are well disposed toward Capt Carver's American children and that they had rather have a ninth of the land than the whole if her brother and sisters would meet her there when informed by the President of the United States and the present Sachems"

But had informed your Excellency of the subject myself without the round of formalities practised in Europe That I was emboldened to do it by the advice of an old Legislator in Massachusetts and I (?) it would be the most ready way to a completion. However had I received his letter a week sooner I should have complied with his instructions and not thus have teased you with my audacious intrusion.

I now feel more importunate for advice than when I before addressed your Excellency - though employed to negotiate for others I find myself unequal to the Task - I desire to

continuation of Samuel Harrison's letter to President Jefferson (acopy made by S.H.)

be informed whether your Excellency has Constitutional power as Executive to validate the claim on the part of the United States, admitting you have the disposition. Or whether it must come before the Territorial(?) Legislature before it can receive your Excys sanction. Or whether it must be a Judiciary Question I find in 8 Section of the first Article of the Constitution the Legislative Powers defined but cannot find a definition which answers my question unless "To regulate commerce etc and with the Indian Tribes." And in Sect 9 "No bill - - or ex post facto law, or law impairing obligation of contracts." For the 2nd Article I cannot find my question answered. The 2nd Sect demonstrates "That the executive powers shall be vested in a President" The 2nd Section defines his Power but the Problem is yet to me unsolved. Neither can I find the 3d Article any satisfaction. In the (?) Ar (ticle ?) I discover that "Full faith and credit shall be given to public acts records" and in Sect 3 "The Congress shall have power to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the Territory and nothing shall be (-tern) should read so construed) as to prejudice any claims etc." Thus Sir my interrogations are yet unanswered. I find no one amongst acquaintances able to give me the desired information how to proceed. I have exposed my ignorance and again implore your excellency's advice and assistance.

Perhaps S.H. left out some of the above - seems to repeat himself in the next few lines-

I have examined the Constitution but cannot find a solution to the Problem - my interrogations are there unanswered and I find no one among my acquaintances able to give me the desired information. I have exposed my ignorance and again implore your extensive advice and protection and assistance.

Sensible it is an object of your Excellency's attention to extinguish the Native right of soil over such considerable portion of Territory would it not be expedient to appoint some proper person to explore the country and discover the dispositions of the present (torn, probably Sachem) whether they are willing to ratify their engagement with Capt Carver and would not the 16th of next June, 1806 be a proper time to have the persons concerned in the mission on the premises. By predicting the darkness some time previos to the Solar Eclipse their credulity might be wrought upon and they would discover a great degree of superiority in the Genius(?) of the White People than those of their own Complexion.

But I hope I shall be excused in attempting to hint any addition to your superior Wisdom. my proper sphere is to negotiate for the Heirs of Capt Carver - I cannot help fostering a secret confidence that you will be pleased to write in answer to my request and confer perpetual obligation upon your Excellency's unworthy though humble

Servant S.H.

Notation on outside page "Rough draught of a Letter to T - J--n

P - U-S-

Dated June 13, 1805 "

COPIES OF LETTERS CONCERNING CARVER CLAIM

Letter to Sam^l Harrison from W^m B. PetersNew York Aug^t 27, 1805
No. 144 Water Street

Sir : Your Letter of 17th Inst directed to Mr. Albert Ryckman has been duly received.

Having for some time had in my possession the enclosed Letters from my Father the Rev^d Sam^l Peters, I have waited for some private conveyance to forward them to you but in vain - trusting they may be of some importance I take this mode of transmitting them to you. The Packet you mention to have been sent by my Father for you to Mr Ryckman's care has never been received. It is to be presumed it was on board Ship Jupiter Capt Law which was lost on the Banks of Newfoundland last May. I have three Profile Likenesses for you and others the children of Capt Jonathan Carver, which I would send did any private opportunity offer at this time - to send them by Post would be too expensive - any order you please to ^{may} give shall be attended to by Sir,

Your obedt Hbl Servt

Wm. B. Peters

Letter to M^r Joshua Goss from Samuel PetersNo. 144 Water Street, New York
29 Nov. 1805

My dear Sir :

I arrived here in good health on the 18th & after consulting with my son, it was found necessary for Samuel Harrison Esqr as Agent from M^r Rufus Carver, Administrator on the Estate of Captⁿ Jonathan Carver, Decd to come and go with us to Congress, at our Expense & to be here by the 15th of Dec^r 1805.

Last Monday I wrote to Mr Harrison & you - and fearing that Letter may miss its way I write this - to request you to apply to Mr Harrison & to beg his attendance here as soon as possible - if I am out of the way my Son will receive him & afford him the necessary Article & Clothes. He will bring the Letter of Administration, the Power of Attorney from Rufus - the Deed from him & the Heirs to my son & all Letters & Affidavits on the Subject - all things being prepared on your side, I hope for Success - from the Character of the member of Congress from Vermont.

The Quantity of Land from the Indian Deed to Captⁿ Carver no doubt will be a bar in our way & may cause a wish with Congress to give a part to the Heirs & retain a part to Congress - their Proposal, be it what it may, must be omnipotent, & the Heirs must comply with it - thus we stand on a needles point - but I will try it at 5000 Dollars Expense if Mr Harrison and the Heirs fail not on their part.

M^r Harrison should have a Power from Rufus Carver perfectly full to act as circumstances turn up before Congress etc.etc. - and to act for the Heirs as he would act for himself & to Sell or give up all Right and Claim of the Heirs to Said Land for such commutation in money, in goods or in Land as shall be proposed by Congress & its Agents. Many Bars & Difficulties lie before us - yet I doubt not of Some kind of Success adequate to our Expenses. M^r Harrison can come here on Horseback & return the Horse, or go on with him to Congress - otherwise go with us in the Stage - he has his option.

Your Senators & Members in Congress would know M^r Harrison & the Heirs of Captr Carver and this is no small advantage. Be of Good Cheer and exert your Abilities now or be Silent as to hope in future. It is now 25 years since Capt Carver died - this Bar we must surmount or we cannot succeed. If the presence of Rufus before Congress is required he must be ready to attend on Receipt of a Letter, at our Expense

farewell; your (cant make out word)

M^r Joshua Goss

Samuel Peters

Letter to Samuel Harrison from Samuel Peters

Salem, Washington (County)
June 11, 1806

My dear Sir, - Samuel Harrison Esqr

I am here as witness & must return to Newyork in four days - I hope you got home in perfect Health & found your wife & family well and likewise all the Friends of (I?) at Granville - No Letter from you has reached me since your departure from N-york - yet I heard you had passed Judge Thomas House without calling on him or his Lady - why so
Mr Broome waits at N-york till my return or until we hear from - (just the dash, no name)
Mr Scott will set off for Rutland this week with Mrs G.M
Let me know what you have done on the Business of your Election & the Heirs of C - Mr B. must hear before he starts another Step - his Lawyers have soured his mind & I view him to be doubtful - Mr Bernard Smith & Mr Hunt have called on me and my Son, with others from Washington - I have seen Edmund Welles Esqr of Cambridge & my Letter to him, Mr Thorn, & Mr Masters will have full effect - Newyork is again Blockaded by the British-
Respects to all S. Peters

Notation on above letter

Written by Samuel Harrison - "In my letter to Dr P - of July 12th 1806 after some salutations etc I wrote - I have not seen any of C -s since I wrote to you on the 16th of June but expect Rufus at my house every day. I am surprised that Mr B - should not furnish you with the money for to me to go to the distant Heirs as you know it was agreed it was to be sent on the saturday after I left NYork - that he need not think his impatience has exceeded mine. I want to know the result - I feel a determination to pursue the claim if my health permit and my "Debt to Nature" do not interrupt - But I cannot feel willing to do much more on uncertainty. If he concludes to give all up tell me so, if he concludes to go on as agreed I am ready and willing to exert my influence- But money is the Sinews of War & Peace And money is wanting and must be had - If he will furnish it I shall be glad to - But if not I shall look on the situation (torn)
I have not money myself But have that which will promise it - (torn)

Wrote Wm B. Peters Aug 19, 1806
again Sept 5th

To Samuel Harrison from S. J. Peters

Albany, October 23d 1806

My dear Sir,

I wrote to you from Newyork after having several Interviews with Mr Broome to acquaint you that he was obliged to return to London on Business & expects to be back in Philadelphia next June & has promised then to visit the Fall of St Anthony with Rufus Carver Esqr yourself and me in great style, provided the Heirs have completely Signed Said Papers of Conditions which you carried with you, So as my Son & all Parties can finish the Contract - and provided also William Hull, Govr of Michigan Territory & the Superintendent of Indian Affairs in that part of the Country where Captⁿ Carver's Claim lies shall have given a proper Passport to Rufus Carver & company - which his Lawyers tell him Govr Hull cannot, or will not give, notwithstanding what Genl Dearborne told you and me at Washington.
I have written to Govr Hull the whole State of the case & referred him to Mr Justice Woodward for further Information & Confirmation of my story & requested Mr Hull to send the Passport to me at Yorktown in Upper Canada, and also, to send a Letter addressed to me at Newyork to the care of William B. Peters Esqr at Newyork - which my Son will open & communicate the contents to you, whether he has sent or will send or give a Passport to Rufus Carver & com(pany) "to go & obtain a Confirmation of the Deed given to Captⁿ Jonathan Carver, Dec, by two Chiefs of the Nowdowissie Tribes on May 1st 1767 at Great Cave" should Mr Hull refuse a Passport he will assign his reason for refusing & then it may be necessary for you to write General Dearborne or Mr Jefferson for a Passport which they cannot refuse with any Decency. You & all know we cannot go without a Passport in the Sense of Law: and the ill Temper of the Spainard now reigning will render it dangerous to go at this Time with the President's Passport.
I have been lame for four weeks since my return from Connecticut by means of the

COPY OF LETTERS CONCERNING THE CARVER CLAIM

To Samuel Harrison from S.J. Peters October 23d 1806

Continued-

Gnatts & Musquatoes biting my Legs - I was like Mephibosheth the Grandson of Saul the first King & greatest Curse that befel the Jews for their Rebellion against Theocracy; & adopting what is called Democracy- i.e. the Government of all or many. Israel, we read, was wretched in the time when she had no King, because every man & Woman did what was right in their opinion - that is, they were not governed by any fixed Law - or Laws - except Private opinions - this was the case of Germany, England, Switzerland, Holland & America and all Protestants now behold & see the end of Luther & Henry 8th Reform from Roman Laws to private opinions - or Liberty. Memphis swallowed up the Jews & Bonnaparte and Paris shall swallow up all Tongues & Nations

(Am not sure about the punctuation of above. Dots and dashes all over !)

I have not heard who is Governor of Vermont nor who were voted for in your District in Lieu of Judge Olin - If you had not a good share of Votes my Friends & yours have been Negligent or not sincere in their promises. Many Prophecy that Senator Israel Smith is elected your Govr & that Govr Tichenor is dropped for the Sin of Federalism - a System the 17 States must soon adopt, or obey France & Spain. The Day is lowering & dark clouds hang over America, while the Light of Bonnaparte illuminates & Governs all Europe - Melah !

I am now on my way to Rome, thence by water down the Wood Creek & the Onondaga Lake to Oswego; thence in a Ship over Lake Ontario to Yorktown where my Daughter Hannah Deloenna(?) Jarvis lives with six children - When I am there I shall provide Indian Interpreters & boats to go with us from Lake Limcoe(?) to Misistimackinah (?) thence to Michigan Lake, thence cross 3 miles over to Wisconsin River which runs west to the Mississippi River, thence up 200 miles to Lake Pepin.

I shall write to you as soon as I hear from Mr Hull & have Discovered anything worth the Postage I shall expect to hear from you while I reside in Canada, So write my Son at Newyork - I hope Mr Goss, Mr Rufus Carver & all the Heirs & Connections are well & happy - I have not written yet to Mrs Pope at Dover, England. & shall not until I know the result of the Passport & the Decision of Congress on the claim.

Mr. Scott is on his way to Boston thence he will go to Vermont & call on you to find out what has been discovered by you & your Friends respecting the ways of Gen.(I.A.?) - Mr Broome is doing great things & will succeed unless Bonnaparte prevents him by Starving poor old England, who owes £800.000.000 and cannot pay £500.000.000 of it - Let all bless William Pitt for all these things -

Bonnaparte, or 666 (?) is soon to be Crowned Emperor of Germany in Room of Francis lately resigned - Russia, Prussia & France are soon to take possession of Constantinople Egypt & the Red Sea - Heec ! (?) the Consequences! East Indies are to be lost to England; tho, my Friend Simcoe is there - commander - in- Chief in Lieu of Cornwallis. Mr Ryckman has sailed for Madaira, ----- (cannot make out the word) & River -- (?) Captola.

All in Newyork were well & those who know you sent respects to you & wonder you have not published your Poems. Our letter I expected to receive at this Postoffice is (if?) The Season & want of Health stops my Journey to upper Canada.

24 October 1806

When Mr Scott calls on you, the Papers, Deed Etc Which you laid before Congress can be sent to my Son which we intend to have printed with (3 words cannot decipher) & Dr Peters' Testimony. The Deed will be printed as a Copy of the Deed laid before Congress - to be carried & laid before the Sachems. The Season being late & I haveing ill Health I apprehend I must return to Newyork & write to Mr Jarvis in upper Canada to do all things & that we hear from him soon Health & Respects to you all - My Health is yet bad but I an yet your Fidet(?) Cousin Samuel Peters
Samuel Harrison Esqr

COPY OF LETTERS CONCERNING CARVER CLAIM

Letter to Samuel Harrison from Samuel Peters

No 50 Essex Street
Newyork March 9th 1807

My dear Sir:

The hard winter is past and the rains are over and gone, & I am yet alive to hear to see & hear of many, very many Sorrows in Europe & Myriads of Fooleries & a thousand & one Degrees of Insincerities in the United States; where Self Interest, discord and Want of Union promise every Evil that came out of Pandora's Box. Your letter of October 7th 1806 reached me in due time, but Mr Goss' of 26 April 1806 never came to me until December 2d 1806 & I had to send to Mr Granger for it, who seems to be the only honest man in Columbia for which reason Jn.^o (?) Randolph of Indian Memory & all Rogues must Persecute him for doing right. . . . Genl Dearborn told us that Govr Hull was the proper Person to give you & Mr Rufus Carver a License to visit St Anthony's Fall - therefore I wrote to Govr Hull at Detroit to send his License to you - having received no answer I wrote to Judge Masters at Washington to apply to Dearborn for a License to St Anthony's Falls - he applied & Wrote the Words following to me Feb^y 27, 1807 - "Govr Hull is at Detroit - It is not usual customary or necessary for any public officer to give Passports unless for Foreign countries - neither can a formal Treaty be held with the Indians by our Constitution, unless under Direction of a commissioner appointed by the President" Ergo - you or Mr Rufus Carver will see it necessary to write to the President & obtain from him a proper Passport to visit St Anthony's Falls - herein you will lose no time - as Jefferson may be inclined to do Justice to Carver's Heirs because he must go out of his present Station at the next Election, otherwise he and his present Adherents will do nothing for Carver's Heirs. fearing they may not, like Olin, help the Revinue which is necessary to build a Bridge over Potomack, Bribe(?) Bonnaparte, & form a turnpike to Ohio -

I communicate now the opinion of the Committee viz, "that a Confirmation of Carver's Deed by the present Sachems or Chiefs of the Nowdowissee Tribes of Indians would not induce the Committee to report in favor of the Claim of Carver; for they consider the Claim, in toto, bad, & that no movements on the part of the Claimants can make it good - The business was laid over from the last Session of Congress without making a Report - Nothing further will be done unless moved by Mr Harrison or some other Agent for the Claim" I. S. th (Israel Smith (?))

Thus far we have gone, & know, from the Present Congress - goverened by Olin & such as fear the people at large who are taught to believe every Acre is worth two Dollars to the Treasury of Congress that lies West of the Allegeny Mountain, or of the Mississippi River to Nootka Sound. Oh! how rich is Olin & his Congress & the United States? - in Idea, design & Cunning to dupe the Multitude & keep themselves in Place & on Pensions?

A Revolution of Policies is near & new men will produce new Measures - the old are not worth a nitch in human Memory. the New will leave all the old at home & Appoint better men than ever disgraced America in Congress -

I am not afraid to try again the Claim of Captn Carver's Heirs before a Congress not composed of Men who have bought Ohio State, Indiana etcetc, to make themselves rich & noble without paying one Cent for what they have promised to pay 200 Cent - Verbum Sat tibi! I pray you to write to Jefferson for a Passport & to name Stephen Thorn Esq^r to be his commissioner to go to St Anthony with R Carver Esqr & yourself & others in order to produce a Ratification of the Deed given to Capt Carver by the Nowdowissee Chiefs in 1767 - his answer will decide our movements, until Jefferson is out of office & an honest man is placed in his Room which may be Burr or the Devil - Mr Broome is in Europe but we have not yet received Letters from him - yet daily expect to - Thank God, the Congress arose on the 4th Current on Nothing but 6 Dollars per diem for every 20 miles until they reached their respective Dens - Israel Smith, A Graham Baldwin & John Smith might have told you what they designed to report on Carver's Claim but they had a purpose to serve Interesting to their Party - they now suppose the Dye is cast & the trap has Sprung & they are Safe & they see no danger in letting out the Cat -

If you have not Succeeded with the Heirs of Captn Carver & obtained a Deed according

to Mr Broome's Statements, he, nor my Son, nor I myself Shall Ever trouble ourselves more about the Land conveyed by the Nowdowissee Chieffs to Captn Carver -
If you have succeeded, we will pursue the Claim under a new President & a new Congress which Thank God is near at hand -

I hope your Family & all Connections are in good health & happy after the severst Winter I ever endured. My Son is at Stratford & next week I expect he will be here - by the first of April I shall be at Stratford - & soon after be at Albany on my way to upper Canada - from which Place you shall hear from me - my Son will be happy to see you or hear from you at Stratford -

(Word missing probably We) (must use head work in the next Congress or (missing, probably lose the) Claim. Robert Walpole said he was obliged to bribe the Members in the British Parliament to attend & do their duty " he never bribed them to do wrong - Congress I believe are not more apt to do their duty than those of the British Parliament - & yet receive wages for attending & doing Nil- while the British receive nil for their attendance & voting with the Ministers - like the honest Vicar of (cannot make out words nor fill in the reference)

On my return from Canada I intend to call on you your Lady & Family, Mr Goss etc etc I have not forgot my namesake but shall remember to bless him whether absent or Present. I have seen nothing of your Publications which gives me Sorrow - I want to see your Name in the Catalogue of Representatives - Mr Goss & the Heirs of Captn Carver must exert themselves in this Concern -
Health & Respects to you & all

Samuel Harrison Esqr

Samuel Peters

Letter to Samuel Harrison from Samuel Peters

Nº 50 Essex Street N.York
Mars 19th 1807

My dear Sir & Cousin ,

(Part gone and contents not of real importance - mostly a repetition of previous letters- Mentions "The Book- Carver's History, is found" & is with Mr Otis - as Judge Smith told me " He urges "You" and Rufus will write, of course, to the President & obtain his Passpor

Letter to Samuel Harrison from Samuel Peters

Newyork May 19th 1807

My dear Cousin , in my two long Letters which Judge Graham will deliver to you I forgot to ask about your Brother who lived with Dr Nathaniel Mass at Hebron & then at Georgia - (Personal - only brief mention of Carver Claim - Mentions names of men who "must" be interested in Carver Claim)

Letter to Samuel Harrison Harrison from Samuel Peters -

Newyork May 1, 1809

My dear Sir ,

I have deferred writing to you & the Heirs of Captn Carver for some months because I have been employed in writing to Genl Dearborn & Govr Hull concerning a Passport to the Nowdowissee Chiefs to gain a Confirmation of their Predecessor's Deed dated May 1, 1767 to Captn Jonathn Carver -(42 years ago)
I could obtain no answer from Jefferson, Madison nor Dearborn but Govr Hull replied that he was ready & willing to do all in his Power for Carver's Heirs but he stood in need of Genl Dearborn's order to enable him to treat with the Nosdowissee Chiefs on the Deed to Carver & his Heirs -
Last week Govr Hull was her & by his advice and directions I stated the whole affair consisely from first to last in a Letter to Govr Hull which he took & enclosed to the New Secretary of War. I prayed him to lay the same before the Secretary of state and the new President & then to give him their Directions & orders respecting the Concern of Carver's just & equitable Claim & he would in next July treat with the Nowdowissee Chiefs respecting that Deed who would be at the Convention of the Indians at Michillimackinac as already fixed & agreed upon- Govr Hull added " if the preesent

COPY OF LETTERS CONCERNING CARVER CLAIM

Sachems should allow their Predecessors Deed to Carver in 1767 Congress would not have to purchase the Indian Title to that large Parcel of Land " Govr Hull requested the order to be forthwith Sent to him at Detroit by the time of his Arrival there, i.e. about the 15th of May present, & said he doubted not but the order would be there as soon as he was - & if So, he would write to his Son, A F. Hull Esqr, attorney of Law in this City whom I have made Agent for you & Carver's Heirs to conduct this Business with his Father EtcEtc.

By the Govrs Letters his Son & I shall know whether it will be necessary for you & Rufus Carver Esqr to go to Detroit next July - if so, the Govr will write to you & to his Son what must be done - - in short it must be proved that Rufus EtcEtc are Heirs and Children of Captⁿ Carver - an attested copy of the original Deed must be there & the Governor has desired the Secretary (Mr Otis) to give one to the Secretary of War - for Govr Hull. Hull will give the Nowdowissee Chiefs a Present & charge it to me - thus are matters fixed & if the Secretary of War does not fail Govr Hull the Heirs of Carver & you & I are sure of success - as Govr Hull is certain the present Sachems will confirm their Ancestor's Deed to Carver, if they ever gave that Deed of May 1, 1767 "because the Indians are the most honorable People on Earth"

Besides the above - Col' Mathew Lyon has been here for three weeks, seen & read the whole story about Captⁿ Carver's Claim & is Sanguine that Congress will ratify & Confirm the original Deed, on the Allowance of it by the present Sachems - and Says he will do all in his Power in Congress for the Benefit of Carver's Heirs, being convinced that the Claim is genuine & much due to his Heirs - But Col Lyon is of opinion that Congress will insist on having Some Part of the Territory, as they have trouble & Expense to form it into a Government & support the Governor EtcEtcEtc. I asked whether half would content the Congress - the Col said he believed it would. I calculate that next winter Congress will decide the fate of Carver's Claim.

Mr. Broome is yet at Paris & by late News he will not soon be here. If Congress should claim half of Carver's Right the Heirs ought not to have so much as 150000 Acres,

Therefore I request you to draw your bond direct (torn, probably, to) me & my bond to you as Agent of Carver for as much less as you judge proper. please then to send both of them to the (address of) Stephen Thorn at Granville & request (him) to Send my Bond to you, to me at New(york) I will then sign & Seal it & return to (small section gone but sentences can be deduced fairly well) I gave a short history of you in my vindication of the Rev (?) Hugh Peters - Jedidiah Buckingham Esqr I hear was Elected Member of Congress, who will help Carver's Heirs' Cause . . he is worthy of your Esteem & mine & of all Republicans who now prevail - Adieu Samuel Peters
Samuel Harrison Esqr

Letter to Samuel Harrison from Samuel Peters -

"otation on outside in Samuel Harrison's handwriting " Copy of an Letter sent to me " and from Dr Pet - Sept 1809 intercepted by a person I must not discover - and received by me May 27 1811"

26th Sept- 1809

My dear Sir, I have written twice to you this summer requesting you to send to me the bond for a deed of the two Sachems dated May 1, 1767 to Capt Carver & a bond for me to sign & seal to recovery to you etc etc a certain part thereof when the Indians shall have confirmed their predecessors deed to Carver & Congress shall have ratified said Indian deed to Carver, but I have received no answer, nor Intelligence from or of you. Hence I conclude you have not received my two letters by post, or you have become dead, sick or have laid aside all further Endeavors to obtain Said Land for Carver's Heirs. I informed you what I had done towards securing these Lands by means of Governor Hull of Detroit & his Son a lawyer in this city who were to meet the Nowdowissee Chiefs in July & August at a General Congress at Michillimackinac & then to let me know the result by Post in Sep^r or as soon as could be - I have heard nothing as yet but daily expect to hear that the present Sachems have confirmed their Ancestors' Deed to Carver & if so to fulfil my obligation to pay Govr Hull & his Son their expenses etc etc & then repair (?) to Congress to finish the Title I have need of your deed prior to any kind of settlement

COPY LETTERS CONCERNING CARVER CLAIM

Letter to Samuel Harrison from S. Peters - continued

(Sept 26, 1809)

with Gov Hull & his Sonor any going to Congress and before I can advise you to prepare to come here & go with me to Congress next December. Whatever you intend pray let me know by return of post & also forward said bonds to Mr Buell at Troy or to Judge Graham or to whom you think proper, with speed that all things proper may be done & made ready - If you neglect now all future Endeavors will be vain & idle - Col Lyon is on the spot & will not fail to assist the Claim of Carver - Thus will A A also many others in the middle of the northern States. Health & respects is the valuation of your fidet (?)

S.A.P.

Though Mr Jefferson has done his best to destroy the claim of Capt Carver by purchasing 20 miles (lat ?) or wide on Carver's Claim next to the river of an Indian of one of the tribes of the Nodowissee tribes & Dr Mitchel was one of the Committee of that purchase for 2 or 300 dollars I fear not if Hull gives a ratification of the present Sachems of Carvers Deed As Madison & the Congress will not dare to bring that purchase against Carvers Claim, which was laid before Congress in 1806 - We are free of Jefferson & our Committee, I Smith. A Baldwin & Ir^d (?) Smith, all of whom were enemies to Carvers Claim & they have received proper payments - Yet I am sorry for the insanity of Israel Smith who was at best but a friend to himself during his sanity (?) or he would have provided for you as I requested & he promised to do. Our new Governor Galusha is Bother-in Law to Col Lyon & to Mr Chittenden of Congress, you may obtain letters & their interest & others of your members in Congress at this Critical period. I have the promises of many to move on the land when you & I can go but we must yield half of it to Congress no doubt to gain the other half - on condition that Congress shall support a Governor etc of it as a Colony until we are numerous enough to be a State.

I pray you not to fail answering me & everything necessary - as Broome is daily expected - The first news I receive (I shall write to you by the Post) either from Hull or Broome whether I hear from you or not - but delay on your part will destroy all future Endeavors or hope - I wrote to you via Judge Thorn yet from him I have heard nothing - Report says he is gone to the Ohio where he has made a purchase. Stanley Griswold is now Senator in room of Ir^d (?) Smith from Ohio - a favorable event for us - be of good cheer & be ready to come to Troy, thence to New York & with me go to Washington Capitol. My love attends you & yours. Mrs Clarke is married but yet resides with me - here is your home. I salute all the heirs of Capt Carver - Adieu S.A.P.

To Samuel

Letter to Samuel Harrison from Daniel Collins - Lanesborough (no State given, could be
Nov 12, 1810 (Massachusetts)
(About lands, deeds and conveyance of same but no mention made of Carver Claim)

Letter to Samuel Harrison from S. Peters -- To the special care of Mr. Hooker
Postmaster, Rutland

Grand Street, Corner of Elisabeth Street
New York June 13, 1811

My dear Harrison,
Since 1806 I have employed three sets of Ambassadors to the Nodowissee Chiefs to obtain from them their Ratification of their Ancestors Deed to Captⁿ Jonathan Carver dated on Maist 1767, at great Expense; the two first did not reach St Anthony's Fall for fear, the third has been gone twelve months & have not returned - I intend to go in Person this summer so soon as you will send me an attested Copy of the Deed to Samuel Peters, given, Signed & Sealed by the Heirs or Sons & Daughters of Captⁿ Jonathan Carver which I beg you to send by the first Mail - if you can put it into the Hand Of Mr Hooker the Postmaster at Rutland he will send it Safe & Soon. I cannot set off without Said Copy of Said Deed. & to effectually fulfil the Agreement on both Sides made between the Heirs of Jonathan Carver and William Birdseye Peters, which Agreement is in your Possession, it is necessary for me to have Said Deed or an Attested copy of it before I leave this City. Nothing but Death after I receive said attested copy shall

Letter to Samuel Harrison from S. Peters continued (Newyork, June 13, 1811)

prevent me meeting you & Captn Carver's Heirs at Carvers Portion Chippeway River's Mouth- I shall be at Ballstown on my Way, I hope by the first of August & shall remain at Horton's Hotel with an expectation of seeing you & Rufus Carver Esqr to conclude on all things about settling on Said Territory EtcEtc. I trust you & Captn Carver's Heirs will meet me next Spring near Lake Pepin and then begin our Halcyon Days after many Troubles.

My Health & Spirits are good & high & doubt not of perfect Success by going to that promising Land where the Gentiles are become friendly to the White People, who have built a Saw & Grist Mill on the West side, or End of St Anthony's Fall - I pray you to offer my kind respects to your Lady & Family & to the Children of Captn Jonathan Carver & to tell them to make ready to take Possession of their respective Townships, Each Six Miles Square & to be called after their respective Names - Carver's Port is to be the Capitol - formed in Square Blocks, Each containing half an Acre - If you send me soon an Attested Copy of the Heirs Deed to me, Samuel Peters, I intend to outfit you in Vermont before August next, for I think Rufus Carver Esqr or yourself will see it necessary to go with me to the Great Cave.

Let not your Magistrate's omission make you forget to answer me effectually & Soon as all matters will rest as they now are till that Copy reaches me. I have lost four years depending on others men to do my Business. I wish I had gone with you & Rufus instead of Sending others to the Nowdowissee Chiefs. I now am resolved to go & make my own way while the Sun shines & I know your Exertions will not be wanting in this important Concern to yourself, Captn Carver's Heirs and me.

Your affectionate Friend and Cousin Samuel Peters

(Note in Samuel Harrison's handwriting -

"You may rest assured that no exertions of mine shall be wanting that are consistent with my duty and our former agreement to prosecute to (effect ?) this important concern.

Letter to Mr. Joshua Goss from Samuel Peters

Addressed -Gentlemen: Rufus Carver Joshua Goss, Samuel Harrison

Elisabeth Street Corner of
Grand, Newyork

August 22, 1812, New date
now August 24 1812

Gentlemen,

I now write to you, Rufus Carver & Joshua Goss instead of writing to Samuel Harrison Esqr of Chittenden to whom I have written six Letters respecting the Carver Claim adjoining the Fall of St Anthony; but cannot and have not received any Answers from him; tho' I often hear he is yet living -- I suppose Mr Harrison's Letters to me have lost their way, as well as mine to him, by some perverse means. I have no doubt of the validity of the Indian Deed to Captn Jonathan Carver - I have full Faith in the present Chiefs of the Nowdowissee Tribes will ratify their Ancestor's Deed to Captn Jonathan Carver & permit his Heirs & their Assigns to Settle on & occupy the said Territory conveyed to Captn Carver, his Heirs and Assigns forever - To comply with the Directions of the Committee of Congress to obtain from the Chiefs of Nowdowissie I have sent three Messengers to them. The two first went no further than Missillimackinac Fort, the third reached the Fall of St Anthony but as yet has made me no returns, whether he is dead or living I know not. Therefore last Spring I sent the fourth Person, as yet I have had no News. Thus five years have gone by and all to no effect; except what was done at Congress in 1806. I see that nothing will be done until I go in Person to the Nowdowissies - I have determined to Set off on that Journey so soon (this autumn) As Mr. Harrison shall Send to me his Certificate "that he has in his Possession & keeping a Deed, or Deeds from Rufus Carver & wife, and all the legal Heirs of Captn Jonathan Carver, deceased, conveying their Right & Interest in & to Said Territory, to the Revd Samuel Peters, L.L.D his Heirs and Assigns forever"

When I have his Said Certificate here I will let you & Mr. Harrison know the Time I will

COPY OF LETTERS CONCERNING CARVER CLAIM

Letter to Joshua Goss & Gentlemen from Samuel Peters
continued

(August 22, 1812)
(" New date now August 22, 1812")

meet you at Ballston. I now tell you that Rufus Carver or Mr Harrison must go with me to the Indian Chiefs with proper vouchers of their being legal children of Capt'n Jonathan Carver, decd - Mr Harrison knows how to have that Business properly fixed - When we meet at Ballston, I will give Proper Deeds to the Heirs of Capt'n Carver according to my Bond - and receive the Deed or Deeds from Capt'n Carver's Heirs as by their Bond. The Reason why I need the foregoing Certificate is - viz , a number of Gentlemen have verbally agreed to assist me in Settling said Territory on reading Mr Harrison's statements and Arguments before the Committee of Congress which they say are Masterly and invincible and prove the Energy of his Mind and Memory - thus far they are Satisfied - and want a Certainty of Capt'n Carver's Heirs, and that they have conveyed their Right & Title to Said Territory to Samuel Peters & his Heirs and assigns by a Deed or Deeds in the keeping of Samuel Harrison Esqr of Chittenden in the County of Rutland & State of Vermont - When the Point is established by Mr Harrison those Gentlemen will forthwith be Satisfied and enable me to set off to visit the Chiefs of the Nowdowissies.

Your Interest and Wisdom will compel you without loss of time to call on Samuel Harrison Esqr your Agent and mine with this Letter and urge him to forthwith Send his said Certificate directly to Samuel Wright Esqr, Vesey Street, Newyork -

This Direction is necessary - lest our City Land Jobbers should detain his Letter should it be directed to Samuel Peters -

Thus you see the necessity of your Speedy Assertions by Striking whilst the Iron is hot "

Fail not of doing well to yourselves and to me, and make due Return to this Letter in manner as already pointed out by your living Friend and Father (by Promise made to Capt'n Carver on the Day he departed from human life to live with the Eternal Spirit - (on January 31, 1780 at London) - Samuel Peters

N.B. No 1 The Sales & Deeds of Mr John King appear to be numerous and Cover more Land than is contained in the Patent to Capt Carver . - and Land jobbers have decried (?) and almost ruined the Claim of Capt'n Carver's other Heirs - those outcries of the many Landjobbers in five years more will kill & obsolete the Deed given to Capt'n Carver by the Sachems on May 1, 1767 - as 50 years limits the Power of deeds of Land unoccupied then Carver's Heirs will lose their Interest and Congress Will, or may, Purchase the Territory of the Sachems. Thus Gentlemen learned in the Law tell me -

" Caveat Vendor - Caveat Emptor " is a law Maxim that is : "take care Seller - take care Buyer " & See your Title is good -

The War with England will drive on Many Settlers , & Prompt Exertion at this time will give us "Possession of the Land of Promise "

The Motto is "Now, or Never " - for Death may Come. Health and Respects and love to all
(One corner torn from this page)

Adieu Samuel Peters

N.B. No 2 If Mr Harrison had received & w(ritten ?)

Since May 1, 1812, I might, should have been now Hull on my way to St Anthony's Fall - In defiance of the various Deeds of Mr John King which cover this whole Terr (itory) by Capt'n Jonathan Carver's Heirs and Assigns : thus speak daily our Land jobbers, thereby intending to Defeat the Settlement of Carver's Land and Sell & Settle their Lands in other Parts of the Union - Pray let me not be hindered any Longer ! I have got a Gentleman to address this Letter to Mr Joshua Goss that no one should know it to be my Letter by the handwriting of Peters or the name of Mr Harrison - It will go Safe to you & Mr Harrison's will come Safe to me if you direct it to Samuel Wright Esqr - Vesey Street, Newyork " (The Canadas will be taken by Congress Troops Soon & will not Stop me nor you "from Seeing the Land of Promise " - before next "Dog Days" -)

(In Harrison's handwriting)

"A Note for memorandum by S. Harrison - Mr Jefferson when Pr US wrote to S Harrison in answer to his request of May (not sure of date) and answered it June 25, 1805 respecting the Carver Title that no recognition of title can be had nor any

COPY LETTERS CONCERNING CARVER CLAIM

(Memorandum of S. Harrison, continued)

settlement permitted " Therefore from May 1767 to June 1805 is 38 years that (not sure of figures) years must elapse after a permission of settlement before the Carver Deed can be said to be obsolete by not making a settlement within 50 years-

(end of memorandum)

Peters letter continued at bottom of page)

N.B. No 3- having not sealed nor sent this Letter & while about doing it, Genl Baily, Postmaster, sent to me this 23d (!) Day of August, 1812 a Letter from Samuel Harrison Esq^r dated at Chittenden August 12, 1812 which gave me much Joy & Satisfaction - & was glad to know he was yet living and has found out the Treachery of Mankind as I have also done. No Letters will direct henceforth to Samuel Harrison Esq^r with my Pen and he will not Address any Letter to Dr Samuel Peters in his handwriting & So we will prevent the Landjobbers tormenting us any more by Stealing our Letters - Yet Mr Harrison must Send the Said Certificate as above Pointed out to Samuel Wright Esq I am your fidet Samll Peters

Letter to Samuel Harrison from Samuel Peters

No 79 Vesey Street, Newyork
March 27, 1813

My dear Sir & Cousin,

Your Communications via Samuel Wright Esq^r came safe & we endeavored to have your Letter to Mr Keeler printed in our Newspapers - but all refused to insert it because it being Just and true did not suit either Party of our Politicians - Faction & Quarrels are Deemed better than the Constitution & the Glorious Rights of the United States - However your Letter was read in Tammany Hall & Washington Hall & was highly approved by all & the Author greatly applauded with Huzza. your Statement of the deeds Signed, Sealed & acknowledged by Captⁿ Carver's Heirs to Samuel Peters being in your Possession to be delivered by you whenever Dr Peters should fulfil his Contract by giving his Deeds to Captⁿ Carver's Heirs & to Samuel Harrison was satisfactory to Mr Wright & all Concerned, & has silenced Clamour raised by those Impostors, called Kings, all of whom had acted as Sons in Law of Captⁿ Jonathan Carver ; ;

Yet those Gentlemen who have proposed to purchase Lands of me & Settle them so soon as Detroit is recovered & upper Canada is subdued by the Troops of Congress, as that will put the Indians on Terms of Peace with the United States, require of me to have the Deeds of Captⁿ Carver's Heirs in my Possession and put on Record in this City before they will buy any Land of me. I am ready to sign the Deeds to the Heirs of Captⁿ Carver & to you according to Contract any Day you Shall Please to appoint & so give up our respective Bonds ; to do this I believe the best way will be for you to send the Deeds I am to sign down to Troy or to Albany to the care of some Person you know where I(?) will go and Sign Seal & acknowledge them and receive the Deeds of the Heirs of Captⁿ Jonathan Carver. But I will leave the Business to you to appoint the time and Place where we shall meet to close all former Bonds and Contracts between Samuel Peters & the Heirs of Captain Jonathan Carver - I request this Concern may be Speedily finished as I cannot proceed to act with those Gentlemen before those Deeds are here & recorded .

I shall wait for your Answer to this Letter and then follow your Directions - tho it will be very inconvenient for me to go further than Troy.

Last week General Hull was with me here and Said he advised me to Settle on Carver's Territory & he warranted that the Nowdowissie Tribes would ratify the Deed their Chiefs had given Captⁿ Carver in 1767 and defend the Heirs ^{Assigns} against all other Claimants - that Congress had not surveyed that Land & could not until Congress had bought the Land of the Indians ; who being Gentiles not Christians had not learned to Cheat, Captⁿ Carver's Heirs & Assigns by selling Said Land to Congress - that said Hull was & is Superintendent over the Nowdowissies & Peters and other Settlers would need nothing more than to deal Justly with them to preserve Eternal Peace with them - Col Burr gave me the same opinion So did Dr Mitchell and advised me & the Heirs of Captⁿ Carver to Settle the Said Land so soon as Possible without troubling Congress any further who had no Claim to any Part of the Soil, because it is the Bona Fide Property of Carver's Heirs - or - of the Nowdowissie Tribes - otherwise no White

COPY OF LETTERS CONCERNING CARVER CLAIM

Letter to Samuel Harrison from Samuel Peters
continued

March 27, 1813

People in America had any fee simple Title to one foot of Land in North America -
Thus I will act & dispise the expost facto Law of Congress -
I hope you will be ready to go on Said Land with me by next June or July - I have sent
60 Families to Settle said Land - Samuel Wright Esqr was about to answer you Letter
when a Blood vessel in his Stomach bursted and in a few Days put an End to his mortal
Life and God the God took his soul to Heaven -
You will please to direct your Letters to me thus : Solomon Wright Esqr 70 Vesey Street
Newyork.
Samll Wright answered Captn Bowden. I have heard no more of him.
Solomon Wright Esqr is Brother Samuel & is my Agent. Jonas Wright Esqr is in the country
& not related to Samll or Solomon.
The River will be clear of Ice to Troy very soon So that I can meet you there if you
Chuse.
Please accept my Love and best Respects & offer them to your Lady & Family ; & tell the
Heirs of Captn Jonathan Carver I am with Pride & veneration their adopted Father and
will continue So until the Candle of Life has burnt below the Socket & then we will
Live forever with our blessed Dead - which will Charm us all - Adieu my beloved
Friend & Cousin Samuel Peters
Samuel Harrison Esqr

Copy of letter to Samuel Peters from Samuel Harrison
in Harrison's handwriting (right edge of letter torn)

Chittenden Sept 7, 1812

My dear Sir:

Your letter of the 22nd, 23rd, and 24th all in one sheet to R.C., J.G., and (torn, probable word- myself) are received as also one from you to me of the 23rd of July, together with one from J. Wright, Esqr (torn, date missing) of July all requesting me to send certificate that I have in my possession, a conveyance (torn, probable word - from) the Heirs of Carver, & (aptn) Jon, deced, their Right and Title to the Land given to him by the Nowdowissie (too fine to read) to the Revd Saml Peters L.L.D - (torn - probable word - you) are sensible Dear Sir of the embarrassment to which I shall be subjected should I Bo (torn) give such a Certificate without the conditions are first complied with, being placed myself in a critical situation - first as em (torn, could be employed) irrevocable Attorney to Carver's Heirs and Secondly being employed as Agent to yourself, Son & Mr. Broome to accomplish the signature by the Heirs of C - of the Instruments Committed to my charge at N York 1806 - The Instruments a (torn, could be are) (the next line is ed, so it is probably -) signed, sealed and certified but are to remain in my hands until certain conditions are complied with (Torn, could be or) I shall suffer myself to be implicated by my first employers. You have not forgotten, I dare say, the promise you made to me and your Son made to me and likewise Mr S. B...e (probably Broome) made to me that pecuniary aid should be allowed and a specified Sum was to be remitted to me in June 1806. It is now Sept and the money (cannot decipher) which had been previously expected to bring about that business (cannot decipher) (now the other side of sheet and the torn edge) and I have not received it. I got money of my friends to prosecute the accomplish (torn, must be ment) of the business, some of which was from some of the Heirs, particularly Mr G..f - when he signed I promised (torn, probably him) never to deliver the Papers until I received money enough to pay him. I had some more (torn, probably from) Mr G..s to whom I made the same promise. I hired some from some friendly persons at (torn) for which I have paid yearly an interest of 15 percent and expended a great deal for (torn) of my own. It has cost me not less than 1000 in money (cannot decipher) of which I borrowed, exclusive of my Time to bring matters to their (torn, probably - pre) sent bearing in the Carver Claim All at my own expense excepting from Stra tford to Washington and from thence home. (torn, probably - the) se , Sir, are some of the Reasons I gave J. Wright Esqr . torn , could be If) I could receive CCL or CCC dollars to pay where I have borrowed I should not hesitate then to cannot decipher) peremptorily all that I can and wait until the claim of Carver is determined for the rest of my past expenses. You may safely send it to me in B.B., enclosed in a Letter directed to me in Pittsford - When you direct to me at Chittenden the Letter stop at Rutland and I have either to get it from that office or after some delay it may be fixd (?) and forwarded and perhaps never - But directing it to Pittsford it never stops until it comes to that P office, and O T E PM is my particular friend and I generally receive it in a few hours after he receives it.

Your N.B. No 1 to Mr J.C.G. and me "that the Deeds of Mr John King appear to be numerous and cover more Land than is contained, etc" I answer - Mr Jno King may sell the Moon if he pleases, it will be nothing to you nor me. No Mr King, to my knowledge, was ever connected with the Carver Family - Mr Samson(?) King is married to Mary, the Eldest daughter of Captn Jonⁿ Carver. I informed you often that he had conveyed away some of the Land, and the probability is that many of the speculators have succeeded in defrauding honest men by a spurious title predicated on Jno. King. You say "50 years will kill and obsolete a Deed" You recollect that Mr Jefferson when P - US wrote to me, S.H. in answer to my request to him May 15, 1805 for to have liberty for C Heirs to settle that Territory - In his answer, dated June 15, 1805 he says no recognition of title can be had nor any settlement permitted." Therefore from May 1765 to 1805 = 38 years that 12 years must expire after a settlement is permitted before the Deed of Carver can become obsolete for being unoccupied for 50 years. "Caveat emptor^o - 2 Caveat" vendor = need to frighten either buyer or seller - Your N.B. No 2 says If Mr. Harrison had received & answered any one of my Letters

since May 1st 1812 I might and Should have been to Detroit with Governor Hull etc"
Since I began to write this Letter I have recd a Statesman's office extra from N.Y
from some person unknown dated Aug 29 , 3 oclock press stating Gov Hull has taken
Fort Malden Aug 1, 1812 in U P With a Nomination for D. W. C. for next President
- and have likewise a Bennington Letter Extra dated Aug 29, 11 oclock press, stating
that Gov Hull is taken and his whole Army at Detroit to which place he had retired for
want of supplies. this is what I expected and what I predicted in a Letter I
sent to Mr Madison dated May 11, 1812 advising him not to declare War in the present
unprepared, defenseless situation of the U S. I begged him not to declare War
himself for I am certain that the War will be unpopular. It will terminate dishon-
orably. it will end in disgrace.

(From "this is what I expected " to "end in disgrace" letter is marked)

(with criss crosses - Perhaps he didn't send that part !)

It was not so in 1777 - the American Arms were not so disgraced at B-- on Aug 16--
nor at Stillwater in Sept - nor at Saratoga in Oct 1777 nor at Yorktown 1781.
It grows dark (~~can-not-decipher~~ -----)

Adieu, S.H.



Minnesota Historical Society

Copyright in this digital version belongs to the Minnesota Historical Society and its content may not be copied without the copyright holder's express written permission.

Users may print, download, link to, or email content, however, for individual use

To request permission for commercial or educational use, please contact the Minnesota Historical Society.



www.mnhs.org