

Thomas Ewing, Jr. to William S. Reyburn

In his capacity as attorney for H. B. Denman, who had just "bought of [John A.] Halderman the interest of the latter in the ferry, Ewing wrote to Reyburn, of Philadelphia, to encourage "an amicable settlement" to avoid taking their disagreement to court. The nature of their dispute was not entirely clear, but Ewing insisted that if not settled it could undermine the legitimacy of the ferry company's charter in the eyes of the soon to be constituted State government.

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Thomas Ewing, Jr. to William S. Reyburn

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Lawrence, Kansas, Nov. 23. 1858.

Dear Sir:

H. B. Deuman has bought of Halderman the interest of the latter in the ferry, and has his deed on record. He paid \$1.750. He has placed his papers in the hands of Thomas & Ewing who are prepared to commence suit at once, after the preliminary demands & tenders are made.

Deuman thinks it proper before bringing suit that I should advise you of the transfer of Halderman's interest to him, and suggest a settlement without recourse to law. You are doubtless as well satisfied as I am that a law-suit for the interest would probably be long and expensive, & would only come to an end after the expenditure of an amount of money and time nearly equal to the present value of the interest involved. Your relations with Deuman are friendly, and by an amicable settlement you would bring into the Company a partner whose aid would be beneficial to the general ferry interest - as he would exert himself, as a private citizen, to promote the interests of the Company.

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and make the common property valuable
and productive.

If such a settlement can
be had, I mean to purchase of Deenman
the half of his interest, & will join the rest
of the company in any expedient measures
for promoting the interests of the concern.

Please let me hear from
you on the subject at your earliest leisure.
I am very truly

Yours

Thos: Ewing Jr.

P.S. I now suggest as a further reason for the settlement
without resorting to the Courts that it is by no means probable
to my mind that in the formation of a State here all the Charters
granted by the Territory will be confirmed. There will be Blank
Charters, & many others, will probably fall with the Territorial
Government, and if any angry controversy is being waged
over this Charter it will probably be regarded with much
less favor than it would otherwise be. E

W. S. Reyburn Esq.
Philadelphia Pa.