

1st Worcester August 19th 1842

To Doc^r John P. Green

Dear Son,

I have reviewed several letters from you which remain unopened, and, as I do not particularly remember the contents of them particularly. I shall hint, as best on such points, as may occur to my memory, & you must pardon any inaccuracies which may occur, & take what is written, as well meant, if not, so properly expressed, as I have your good my Aunt's always at heart. I shall begin my recollections why your name came to be John, as I am getting old, & the history of past events may serve to refresh you for a leisure moment, & will give my mind that even of recollections which the several announcements which have passed, may have impressed any thing particular on my mind. After I had been three years, & a few months settled in Grafton in this county. I was persuaded to return to Worcester, & take charge of the old farm of my father's, as my brother John who had the charge of the farm, as executor to my father's will, & my sister Mary, & my Mother lived on the farm, & only having hired help on the place who had no other interest there to get their wages the farm was much run out for a year, & the house which had been partially repaired the year that my father -

Incomplete letter from William E. Green to Doctor John P. Green,
August 19th 1842
[John P. Green Mss. – L]

Worcester August 19th 1842

To Doc[to]r John P. Green

Dear Son,

I have received several letters from you which remain unanswered, and, as I do not particularly remember the contents of them ~~particularly~~, I shall hint, or touch on such parts, as many over to my memory, & you must pardon my inaccuracies which may occur, & take what is written, as well meant, if not, so properly expressed, as I have your good my dear son always at hart [sic]. I shall begin by a relation why your name came to be John, as I am getting old the history of past events may serve to amuse you for a leisure moment, & will give my mind that ease of resollution [sic] which the several anniversaries which have passed may have impressed any thing particular on my mind. After I had been three years, & a few months settled in Grafton in this county, I was persuaded to return to Worcester, & take charge of the old farm of my fathers, as my brother John who had the charge of the farm, as executor to my fathers will, & my sister Mary, & my Mother lived on the farm, and only having hired help on the plow who had no other interest than to get their wages the farm was much run out [*Ms. illegible*] poor, & the house which had been partially repaired the year that my father

21 did was in an unfinished state yet tolerably comfortable for the family - The house was however no way floored or stable which were convenient or necessary for the cattle. There were a pair of small cattle on the place four cows small, & one horse which another John bought & put on the farm he had taken a wolf which was dead from the same father purchased of old Mr. Thomas who formerly lived on the farm where Dennis Rice now lives & from which Anne Young the present breed of horses were on the farm from a stud which was given to my mother by her father Brigadier Timothy Duggles when my father remained her - My brother Timothy was settled in N. York, & having seen the situation of the farm, & knowing the situation of his affairs & the place or old family farm he with my brother John was urgent to have me leave Grafton & come to Worcester go into partnership with Edward Morys Esq. an attorney settled in Worcester at that time, & the same with whom I studied Law, & after considerable urging I was made to go into company with Esq. Morys, & continued in the company thirteen years most of the time residing on the farm, & kept my office in the street until Mr Morys was appointed under the new arrangement of the Court of Common Pleas & General Sessions of the Peace a Judge of that Court - when I continued the practice alone in the same office until Mr Morys's son Edward Dillingham Morys was admitted to practice & then we went into partnership for a few years about four I believe & then at the request of Mr Morys we dissolved & I opened our office by myself &

died was in an unfinished state yet tolerably comfortable for the family - The barn was poor no hay floors or stables which were convenient or scarcely comfortable for the cattle. There were a pair of small cattle on the plow four cows small, & one horse which brother John bought & put on the farm he had taken a colt which was deemed from the mare father purchased of old Mr. Starrs who formerly lived on the farm where Darius Rice now lives & from which Mare sprung the present breed of horses now on the farm from a steed which was given to my mother by her father Brigadier Timothy Ruggles when my father married her - My brother Timothy was settled in N. York, & having seen the situation of the farm, & knowing the situation of his affairs & the plow or old family farm he with my brother John was urgent to have me leave Grafton & come to Worcester go into partnership with Edward Bangs Esq[ire] an attorney settled in Worcester at that time, & the same with whom I studied law, & after considerable urging I consented to go into company with Esq[ui]r[e] Bangs, & continued in the company thirteen years most of the time residing on the farm, & kept my office in the street untill [sic] Mr. Bangs was appointed under the new arrangement of the Court of Common Pleas & General Sessions of the Peace a Judge of that court - when I continued the practice alone in the same office untill [sic] Mr. Bang's son Edward Dillingham Bangs was admitted to practice & then we went into copartnership for a time years about four I believe & then at the request of Mr. Bangs we dissolved & I opened an office by myself &

3^d practiced here or five years after & Mr. Mungl continued on
Judge untill he died, & his son continued the practice of
the law untill he was chosen Secretary of State of the
State of Massachusetts - I now will return to the period
of my leaving Grafton & come on the old farm where
I found every thing, as hardy & comfortable as was possible
while in Grafton I had saved nearly 1,500 dollars
in money, & I could no more or rather I came on to the
farm found it more necessary to make some repairs
& alter the method of working on the place, I
repaired the farm with some new tools and
covered the farm house, & now plowed it. I still
attended to my professional business, & devoted a few
hours each day to the oversight of the farm and
generally was out from 8 o'clock in the morning & was
about the oversight of the farm untill eight or
clock in the morning, & after that I went to my
office untill 12 o'clock or 1 o'clock came home to dinner
& returned to my office generally about 2 o'clock
& there continued to attend to such business as was
necessary to be done untill night, & some times
untill quite late in the evening. All this time I had
no title to the farm but was promised or told by
brothers John, & Timothy. I continued to take charge
of the farm for four years & more, & had expended all
my earnings in cultivation & subdividing & raising
repairs untill I would go no further without a title
to the place Mr. Mather had made some arrangements
in his business -

practiced law a few years after & Mr. Bangs continued as Judge untill [sic] he died, & his son continued the practice of the law untill [sic] I was chosen secretary of state of the state of Massachusetts - I now will mention the the [sic] period of my leaving Grafton & came on the old farm where I found every thing, as hardly situated as was possible [sic][.] while [sic] in Grafton I had made nearly 1,500 dollars in money, & I owed no man a dollar[.] I came on to the farm found it was necessary to make some repairs & alter the [Ms. illegible] of carrying on the plow, I repaired the fences built some new walls new [Ms. illegible] the farm barn, & new floored it. I still attended to my professional business, & devoted a few hours each day to the oversight of the farm and generally rose at four O. clock in the morning & was about the oversight of the farm untill eight O. clock in the morning, & after that I went to my office untill [sic] 12 O clock or 1 o'clock came home to dinner & returned to my office generally about 2 o'clock & there continued to attend to seek business as was necessary to be done untill [sic] night, & some times untill [sic] quite late in the evening. All this time I had no tittle [sic] to the farm but was promised a little by brothers John, & Timothy. I continued to take charge of the farm for four years & more, & had expended all my earnings in cultivation [Ms. illegible] farming & repairs untill [sic] I could go no further without a little to the plow Brother Timo[thy] was sunk [Ms. illegible] in his business -

41^{1/2} My brother John the same morning neglected to settle his
accounts with his partners for many years - but
last after much urging brother Gird^l came on
to Worcester with an intention to settle the estate
of my father, & as I had always been particular
to take bills, & Receipts for all he had done & remain
undrawn by repairs on the farm it was ascertained
that without any pay for my services I had paid out
four thousand dollars. Brother Gird^l then saw
that at the price farms were selling, that a settlement
which was secured by my father's will for my mother
& two sisters would be defeated provided I was paid
out of the real estate, & he wished me to take an Oath
of the farm, & so that you it went to him to pay
what monies he had advanced to brother Thomas &
my three youngest brothers & I would not agree
to that method of doing the business, & I was bound
for brother John at that time about four or five
thousand dollars - & he was kind to lend me his name
but left me from the hurry of his business always to
look out & vain money to meet all his, & my own
liabilities which burrowed me very much &
after Gird^l & John & I had consulted several days &
had looked over my accounts for my payments
we parted, as I would not do any thing to jeopardize
my mother's or sisters settlements on the estate I
concluded to give up my claim for advances
& leave the farm, & have what I had paid &
I was fully determined so to do unless Timothy
would take such a deed & Receipt

& brother John the same having neglected to settle his accounts with his patients for many years - at last after much urging brother Tim[oth]y came on to Worcester with an intention to settle the estate of my father, & as I had always been particular to take bills & receipts for all labor done & business rendered by repairs on the farm it was ascertained that without any pay for my services I had paid out four thousand dollars, brother Timo[thy] then saw that at the price farms were selling at that a settlement which was secured by my fathers will for my mother & two sisters would be defrated [defrayed?] provided I was paid out of the [*Ms. illegible*] estate, & he wished me to take a deed of the farm, & mortgage it back to him to pay what monies he had advanced to brother Thomas & what my three youngest brothers and I could not agree to that method of doing the business, & I was bound for brother John at that time about four or five thousand dollars - & he was kind to lend me his name but left me from the hurry of his business always to look out & raise money to meet all his, & my own liabilities which harassed me very much, & after Timo[thy] & John & I had consulted several days & had looked over my vouchers for my payments we parted, as I could not do any thing to [*Ms. illegible*] my mother's or sisters settlements on the estate I concluded to give up my claim for advances & leave the farm, & loose [sic] what I had paid & I was fully determined so to do unless Timothy would take such a deed & execute

Transcribed by Emily S. Dunster