

No 3 Kilmington St Oakley St Lambeth London. Sept<sup>r</sup>. 12<sup>th</sup> 1849

M<sup>r</sup>. Joseph Hand.

Dear Cousin. I hope you will receive this. And read it too, in  
very good health. With contentment. satisfaction. and thankfulness. That you  
are. where you wish to be. I should be sorry if you did not like the place  
after going so far. I wanted to inform you that I have not divided the Legacy  
money. that belongs to Brother John. if he is living. I wrote to Messrs Bedson  
& Rushton the 29<sup>th</sup> of last June. To know if there was any Legal obstacle. To  
dividing the money amongst them that are entitled to it. If Brother John was  
dead. They giving me security with good Bail. If he should be alive & claim it  
For they to refund it. But they have not answered me as yet. It is now about  
Twenty years since Bro<sup>r</sup>. John left the Forest. I don't think any person can  
charge me with hurrying others to get my own. For when I could have had it.  
I had to lend it. So I never saw it yet. principle or Interest. I am like you  
Though you have had more trouble than me in this case. But trouble without  
recompense. is all we are likely to get as Executors. I am at least 200£ out  
of pocket thro: being executor for an old acquaintance in London. I have  
not asked any Lawyers advice if the money can be divided without your  
signature. Or. If you gave Messrs Bedson & Rushton any instructions in the  
matter when you was last at Uxoxeter. If you did please to let me know  
by letter their purport as soon as convenient. As I wish to finally. Settle.  
all my worldly affairs soon as possible. I was seventy years old last January.  
I have not been to Yoxall since you & I met there. so I cannot send you any  
news from that part. Trade in my line and amongst Mechanics generally  
is very bad indeed in London. and has been the last two years. and seems  
likely to continue so. We have the Cholera very bad in & about London  
But it is worse in <sup>Lambeth</sup> ~~London~~ than any other district. A great many people  
that I know are lying Ill & Dead at this time. My son George's Wife is  
the only one of our family as yet that has died of it. I lost my Wife  
two years ago last May. I had a letter last week from Ab<sup>m</sup>. Hardy of Yoxall  
He =



He & most of the Farmers are grumbling about free trade, reducing the  
price of their produce. They dare not lay it, to the real cause, namely  
High tithes. Game laws. Army & Navy. And many other Aristocracy  
made Laws, that injures themselves and all others. Being carried out  
by Parson Magistrates in the country localities. A person has just  
published a book wherein he proves that our protestant Clergy receive  
above Ten Millions sterling Annually. I again repeat. That I hope you  
will write soon and give me all the information you can as brother Executor  
And if you wish for any information I can send you. I am at your  
service. Life & reason permitting. Myself and family are all tolerable  
well in health. I hope yourself & all yours &c are quite well.  
Wishing you all the comforts this world can bestow. And everlasting  
happiness in the next. Is the prayer of your Cousin W<sup>m</sup> Elkin -

P. S. I should like to see you in England again if you wish it.

To  
Mr Joseph Hand, Senr  
Paddocks Grove. Madison County  
South Illinois, U. S.  
North America



M<sup>r</sup> Joseph Hand, Sen<sup>r</sup>.  
Paddock's Grove, Madison County.  
South Illinois U. S.  
North America.





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