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### MERINO WOOL.

*The following is an extract of a letter from Chancellor Livingston to Elkanah Watson of Pittsfield, Mass. on the subject of this important article:*

"*Lebanon Springs,* 12*th Sept.* 1809.

"DEAR SIR,

"On the subject of cotton, on which we conversed fully when at your house, I will suggest an idea, which is striking, to shew how easy it will be for the northern states to rival the southern in substituting the value of the cotton by our Merinos. One million of Merino sheep will give five million pounds of fine wool, supposing them to be composed of ewes and wethers in equal proportions.— Five million pounds of fine wool are worth now ten millions of dollars; and even at the peace price in England, seven and one half millions of dollars.

"Fourteen million pounds of cotton (the quantity exported in one year from South Carolina and Georgia) taking the short and long staple together at the utmost is not worth five millions of dollars at the London market. The states of New York and Massachusetts, either of them without any material change in their agriculture, except a substitution of Merinos for other sheep, can raise as much wool as shall equal in value to the export of cotton. But how easy it would be once at that point, to double all our Merino flocks—thus leave a larger quantity of wool, than we now have from the same number of sheep, for domestic purposes, of fine wool instead of coarse—and all the surplus for exportation, or to go into future home manufactories?"

*Alexandria, Oct.* 2.

The laudable rules of society has always held it as rather unseemly to speak much of one's self; but when our neighbors are puffing themselves for their individual credit, enterprize, industry and prosperity in trade, it may be held excusable to state some facts relative to the growth and prosperity of the town of Alexandria; and we assume as a fact, that the town of Alexandria has, for the last 25 years, gradually progressed both in population and wealth, with but the little interruption it experienced in the year 1803, which we hope will prove a blessing in disguise, and act only as a momentary check: for, with that dear bought experience, we have established a police which promises fair to ward off a similar evil in future. The population of Alexandria in 1806, was 5915; in 1807, 6208; in 1808 no census was taken; but by examining the list of Poll Tax, it must have been a greater increase than the preceding year, which will make 6647, and the present year has, from the same tax list, doubled any former year, making our population 7500 at least. We observe by Poulson's Philadelphia Gazette, that 223 brick houses have been built in that city the present year, and by viewing our own improvements we find that 34 houses have been built in Alexandria, of which 23 are brick. Now the plain rule of three will inform us, that Alexandria, with a population of 7500 inhabitants, has built in proportion as many houses as Philadelphia, with a population of upwards of 70,000. On the first of June last, bricks could not be had here to build a house; since that period near four million of bricks have been burnt in Alexandria. There has been inspected in Alexandria for the half year ending the 1st Sept. 91,447 barrels of flour, and 620 hhds. of tobacco, the latter inspection not more than two years revived. In 1806 there were not more than two weavers' looms in town, now there are upwards of 20— and this year a carding mill and cotton factory have been established on the margin of the town—two new rope walks have been built this year, and considerable improvement to the wharves, which present to the view, in approaching the town by water, a continuation of piers, representing regular bastions to a fort—which proves the wealth deposited in that particular improvement. The great western transportation road will this season be turnpiked upwards of 25 miles, and a bridge is finishing over Great Hunting Creek adjoining town, which will shorten the southern mail road [illegible] miles in the small distance of 7, and connect with the town a large and fertile plain of country, before almost unconnected by its bad and circuitous route. Much as we have been depressed in common with our fellow citizens, by the late deranged state of commerce, we have continued to progress with a steady pace, both in population and wealth, and we are persuaded few towns in the United States hold out greater advantages to the man of business, preferring a society who are moral, industrious and economical —plain in their manners, and hospitable without parade or affectation.

*Daily Gazette.*

### TO THE PUBLIC.

*The Address of the New York Historical Society*

Having formed an association which has since been incorporated, for the purpose of dicovering, procuring and preserving whatever may relate to the natural, civil, literary, and ecclesiastical history of our country, and particularly of the state of New York, we solicit the aid of the liberal, patriotic and learned, to promote the objects of our institution.

The utility of societies for the advancement of science, has been so fully proved by the experience of the most enlightened nations of Europe, and by that of our own country, that there can be no need, at this time, of any formal arguments in support of their claim to public patronage. But it may be observed, that, in this state, if we except the Agricultural Society, there is no association for purposes of general knowlege; and the want of a regular, minute, and authentic history of New York, renders the combined efforts of individuals for that object more peculiarly necessary.

It is well know that many valuable manuscripts and papers relative to the history of our country remain in the possesion of those who, though unwilling to entrust them to a single person, yet would cheerfully confide them to a public institution, in whose custody they would be preserved for the general benefit of society. To rescue from the dust of obscurity of private repositories such important documents, as are liable to be lost or destroyed, by the indifference or neglect of those into whose hands they may have fallen, will be a primary object of our attention.

The paucity of materials, and the extreme difficulty of procuring such as relate to the first settlement and colonial transactions of this state, can be fully perceived by those only who have meditated on the design of erecting an historical monument of those events, and have calculated the nature and amount of the resources: For without the aid of original records and authentic documents, history will be nothing more than a well-combined series of ingenious conjectures and amusing fables. The cause of truth is interesting to all men, and those who possess the means, however small, of preventing error, or of elucidating obscure facts, will confer a benefit on mankind by communicating them to the world.

Not aspiring to the higher walks of general science, we shall confine the range of our exertions to the humble task of collecting and preserving whatever may be useful to others in the different branches of historical inquiry. We feel encouraged to follow this path by the honorable example of the Massachusetts Society, whose labors will abridge those of the future historian, and furnish a thousand lights to to guide him through the dubious track of unrecorded time. Without aiming to be rivals, we shall be happy to co-operate with that laudable institution in pursuing the objects of our common researches: satisfied if, in the end, our efforts shall be attended with equal success.

Our enquiries are not limited to a single state, or district, but extend to the whole continent: and it will be our business to diffuse the information we may collect in such manner as may best conduce to general instruction. As soon as our collection shall be sufficient to form a volume, and the funds of the society will admit, we shall commence publication, that we may better secure our treasures by means of the press from the corrosions of time and the power of accident.

That this object may be sooner and more effectually attained, we request that all who feel disposed to encourage our design will transmit, as soon as convenient, to the society—

Manuscripts, records, pamphlets, and books relative to the history of this country, and particularly to the points of inquiry subjoined.

Orations, sermons, essays, discourses, poems and tracts; delivered, written, or published on any public occasions, or which concern any public transaction, or remarkable character or event.

Laws, journals, copies of records and proceeding of congresses, legislatures, general assemblies, conventions, committees of safety, secret committees for general objects, treaties & negociations with any Indian tribes, or with any state or nation.

Proceedings of ecclesiastical conventions, synods, general assemblies, Presbyteries, and societies of all denominations of christians.

Naratives of missionaries, and proceedings of missionary societies.

Narratives of Indian wars, battles and exploits; of the adventures and sufferings of captives, voyagers and travellers.

Minutes and proceedings of societies for the abolition of slavery, and the transactions of societies for political, literary and scientific purposes.

Accounts of universities, colleges, academies and schools; their origin, progress and present states.

Topographical description of cities, towns, counties, and districts, at various periods, with maps, and whatever relates to the progressive geography of the country.

Statistical tables—tables of diseases, births and deaths, and the population; of meteorological observations and facts relating to climate.

Accounts of exports and imports at various periods, and of the progress of manufactures and commerce.

Magazines, reviews, newspapers, and other periodical publications, particularly such as appeared antecedent to the year 1783.

Biographical memoirs and anecdotes of eminent and remarkable persons in America, or who have been connected with its settlement and history.

Original essays and disquisitions on the natural, civil, literary, or ecclesiastical history of any state, city, town or district.

As the society intend to form a library, and cabinet, they will gratefully receive specimens of the various productions of the American continent and of the adjacent islands, and such animal, vegetable and mineral subjects as may be deemed worthy of preservation. Donations also of rare and useful books and pamphlets, relative to the above objects, will be thankfully accepted, and all communications duly noticed in the publications of the Society.

JOHN PINTARD.
*Recording Sec'y.*

*Sept* 15*th*, 1809.

*FROM THE TIMES.*

*A letter from a gentleman in Bowling Green, to his friend in Russellville, (Ken.) descriptive of a Cave.*

*Bowling Green, June* 16, 1809.

DEAR SIR,

On the 12th of the present inst. I, in company with a number of others, went to see a large Cave that has lately been discovered in this county. It is found on the lands of a Mr. Brown, on the north side of the road leading from Stewart's ferry to the widow Lucas's; it is one mile from the ferry, and four easterly of Bowling Green. The ground immediately over the cavern is depressed about 8 or 10 feet below the common level of the barrens; in the bottom of this depression is the hole by which we were to descend; it is four feet in diameter, and through a solid rock; after descending about six feet, we passed through the rock: a dark gloomy vault then presented itself to view in every direction; in sinking five and twenty feet more, we came to the spot that supported our conductor, a small perpendicular pole above 30 feet long; when the fire was thrown down, and our candles lighted up, we discovered that we were standing on the summit of a subterranean mountain that broke off so abruptly to the westward, that if any one of us had fallen from the pole in climbing down or up, he must have rolled near 100 feet before he came to the bottom, except some casual circumstance had prevented, such as an intervening rock that had detached itself and fallen from the arch above.

Our lights prepared, we began our march down the rapid descent to the westward; the first thing that arrested our attention in particular, was human bones, which were found in considerable numbers from within a few feet of where we landed, until we reached the bottom of the mountain; bones of every description are to be found in abundance, though mostly decayed and broken to pieces; yet two skulls were taken out entire a few days anterior to our visiting the place; one of them I examined; it is larger than common, the sinciput is flatter; the superciliary ridge of the os fromis higher; the two tables and diploe thicker than in any human skull I ever before noticed. A callus formed by the dropping of water covered the os occipitis and osa parietalia nearly to the coronal suture; this was the case with many of those in the Cave; one place in particular, not less than half a bushel of bones lay congealed together, and in many others they are to be fonnd adhering to the rocks so tenaciously as not to be got off without breaking; these bones appear to have been the natural consequences resulting from the effusion of much blood; that they were slain in battle is to be inferred from the following circumstances:

First, the appearance of old fortifications and places of defence in the vicinity of the Cave, which are prominent features of trouble. Secondly, the manner in which the bones lie plainly shews that they were thrown down from the top in a hurry, and left to roll off promiscuously, as the situation below and chance directed them. 3dly, from the appearance as to the time they have lain there, all equally superannuated and corroded down by the unrelenting hand of time. 4thly, because they appear to have been the bones of adults exclusively; many of them old men; here, as in other viviparous animals of the class of mamalæ, age is evinced by the teeth; the incisores and molares being considerably worn away by long and frequent mastication: that they are bones of men and not of women is suspected from the following circumstance:— Those of men are larger in general, the processes and rugosities more prominent, and the fossæ sinules and sinuosities for the insertion and lodgment of the muscles, tendons, nerves and blood vessels, are more distinctly marked in men than in women, all which circumstances seem plainly to occur in those immediately under our consideration; besides, it is a well known fact that the aborigines of America are, and ever were, tenacious of their dead; and will, at the risk of their lives, bear off the bodies of their slain brethren to a safe place of deposit; here, then, they found it, and here it was that the earth opened her bowels to receive them, reeking from their hands, and here no doubt she has preserved them for ages, free from intrusion or contempt, until the present more inquisitive and audacious generation has dared to insult their manes by tramping on their ashes with unhallowed feet.

We next directed our course to the south part of the cave. After passing over rough uneven ground, we came to a small valley near the southern termination; on pursuing it a few yards eastwardly, it made a short turn to the left, round some high rocks, and led down to a deep hole of water, which is conjectured to be a part of Long's big spring. From appearances there is no doubt but this water breaks up in the time of a flood, & inundates the whole convexity contained in the cavern, notwithstanding the elevated part, at this time, is above one hundred feet above the level of the water.

Our course was next directed to the northern extremity, (the scite is from north to south) but nothing remarkable presented in this part, the situation is higher, the bottom more broken with small sinks among a large bed of rocks; at the termination there is a large sink of water like unto a well, and appeared to be about ten feet down to the water. About twenty yards east of where we went in, stands a pillar of stone, somewhat in the shape of a cone, near two feet thick at the base and about 8 or 9 feet high; when dressed with a hat from a few yards distance, cuts a very gigantic appearance. The whole length of this vault, is supposed to be an hundred yards; the area may be computed between one and two acres; the altitude of the western ascent sixty degrees. After the lapse of an hour spent in this gloomy abode of death, we all unanimously ascended the pole and landed again safe in this upper world; too well satisfied with what had been seen, to entertain the most distant thought of putting even to hazard myself to the experiment of again interrupting the silent but awful repose of the dead.

*Boston, Sept.* 16.

*Military.*—On Wednesday last, the Washington Infantry commanded by captain Loring, marched to Roxbury, and visited major general Heath, who received them with every mark of attention that became a soldier, and addressed them in the following [illegible] manner:

*Officers and Members of the Washington Infantry.*

Permit me, gentlemen, to express the pleasure I have enjoyed in viewing your soldier-like appearance, and the correctness with which you handle your arms. Be pleased to accept my thanks for your polite invitation to sit down with you at the Punch Bowl hotel. Particular circumstances [illegible] me that honor. Be pleased also to accept my thanks for your presenting yourselves before my house, and giving me military honors. Thus much for myself personally.

As a citizen of the United States, my native country, that country whose independence and sovereignty, honor and prosperity, are my primary objects, I thank you for those exertions you are making to render yourselves as far as in you lies, her able assertors and defenders. Your youth and your energy, peculiarly form you for this noble service. Napoleon, the great captain of the age, is shaking a large portion of the world with armies composed of young men like you. Such are like a strong man, whose quiver is filled with chosen arrows, who never will be afraid to speak with an enemy in the gate.

Oh that my fellow countrymen were more convinced of the vast importance of establishing a correct system of military tactics and discipline, supported by military schools and academies, which would render our young men accomplished soldiers. While this remains neglected, your example, (with that of others like you) is the more important, to arouse and animate others; but should you fail in this, you will not lose your reward; for should you ever be called to a field of battle, (which Heaven forbid in our as yet happy country) your skill in the use of arms and knowledge of tactics, will then be of unspeakable advantage to you, and ensure an ample share of merited distinction. More than once you have volunteered your services to government; be not weary in well doing; for although your numbers are but small, your discipline and your patriotism will make way for you.— As soldiers and as citizens, may Heaven's favors descend upon you.

WM. HEATH.

The company then proceeded to Brookline, and practised firing at a target; after which they partook of a cold collation. They were honored with the presence of gen. Dearborne, commodore Tingey, and many other gentlemen.

*FROM THE ENQUIRER.*

### BRITISH EXPENDITURES.

*Col. Wardle,* in the British House of Commons, on the 19th June, stated the burthens of the country, and the grievances from which he thought it might be relieved. In the course of his observations he said that the public expenditure in 1808, amounted to 71 millions of money, and from the survey of the estimates presented for 1809, it had encreased to 79 millions. He proposed to make the following alterations by which enormous sums might be saved.

The regiments of horse guards and blues, which now consist of 23,000 men, he would reduce to 500, as they were only intended for parade.

There is at present 23 399 dragoons, which he would reduce to 15,000.— this would save the country 1,370,000*l.* annually.

The foreign troops in the British service, amount to 22,378, the expence of this corps is 1,300,000, per annum. He would discharge these altogether, believing it to be bad policy, to employ foreigners.

The royal staff corps, he deemed useless, as their duty appertained to the engineers. The annual expense of this corps is 2[illegible]

The militia of the united kingdom costs the country annually three [illegible]