

To the Proprietors of the
Kennebec Purchase
Gent^m

Hallowell 10th April 1808

It is with pleasure I communicate to you a proposition from some persons denominated friends or Quakers to purchase a tract of land in the rear of the northerly part of Fairfax and directly to the south of the Nebow tract. What is proposed by the party is to purchase up the betterments of those settlers who may be within the limits of the tract; and if they have a chance of effecting this, then to have the liberty of purchasing the tract of the Proprietors so as to secure to themselves, the betterments they have bought. They will give of the rate of 9/-# acre for a tract of about 3000 ac. but upon the sole condition that they can quiet the settlers upon it; for otherwise they would not accept the land as a gift, with an obligation to reside there in person. The parties will be subject to the following inconveniences.—1. °The occasional troublesome visits of the disguised indians, who force provisions & c. from the inhabitants. 2. °No appreciation of the property, unless they can purchase from the whole of the present settlers; and possibly the necessity of abandoning what they shall have bought, from a jealousy of their being friendly to Proprietors. 3. °The difficulty and expense of carrying it thro. as the last remaining settlers, will take every advantage in the demand for their betterments.

The obvious advantages to the Proprietors are 1. ° a certain price to the land, without the risk of a value by a jury. 2. ° The getting rid of the most violent settlers is on Patent; at least to many of them as will make the management of the residue more easy. 3. ° By introducing quiet persons into that quarter, it encourages quiet persons purchasers for the betterments; the remaining unquiet ones in the same neighbourhood. 4. ° A moderate price will enable the purchasers of the land to pay a more liberal price for the betterments. 5. ° A sect of some weight of influence will be interested who are disposed under all situations to maintain & support the proprietors just claims to their interests.

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Contributed to Maine Memory Network by the Maine Historical Society (Local Code: Coll. 60 box 6 fl. 11)
Creation Date: April 10, 1808
Description: Letter from Charles Vaughan to the Kennebec Proprietors about settler unrest and the Quakers.

I am most decidedly in favour of the
sale, as one that maybe beneficial to the Proprietors; and
I think it possible that rather than relinquish the object, the parties
would go as far as 12/ # acre, payable in 3 & 4 years. The
Proprietors will also say, whether they are willing to extend such
a plan to the entire removal or quieting of settlers in Fairfax.
This plan perhaps may be improved on; and if it is confined
after this sale to lots settled upon, & these are of a size suited
to a farm, it will tend very much indeed to the appreciation
of lands on which there is no settlement.

I would now suggest another plan, which
I may myself be willing to try if approved; and that is to
make a compromise with certain settlers for their betterments
on the best terms I possibly can, and having engaged their de-
parture, to pay the Proprietors for the land at the rate of 12/
acre, by a portion of the lots, with their betterments to the
value of the land retained by me. As far as these settlers
shall be removed, the land will have its full value and so on.

These betterments shall be selected by three judicious persons
giving an average of the quality of what may be bought.
I shall be content with Chris Hayden, Solomon Adams and
Major Saml Grant as the referees.

So anxious am I for restoring peace to
the Country, and value to the Lands, that I have volunteered
in thus writing to the Proprietors, after having first refused all
compensation from the friends, and I now do also from the
Proprietors; having no interest other than a general one in
the success of the proposition.

An immediate answer is requested
because this is the season for the present applicants to seek
other situations, as well as the parties who are on the land.

I am
Gentle
yours ob. humb
Char. Vaughan

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Char. Vaughan



To the Proprietors of
the Kennebec Purchase
Boston

care of
? Hallowall

Char.s Vaughan Esq.r Letter
dated Hallowell 10 Ap. 1808
giving his recommendations of
the Friends or Quakers to
be purchasers as for 12/. per
acre—his plans or proposals
to quiet the county- &c &c.
Chr.. wrote him per Enoch Child
of Augusta the 18 April 1808.