Dear Sir,


Since my short letter by Mr. Rivers I have to acknowledge the receipt of your two favors of June 9. & July 30. a few days before the last came to hand. I had written to Gen. Monroe & pray'd him to name a day in the autumn (when the fall of the leaves shall have rendered a survey in the woods practicable) and to procure an engagement from Champe Carter to attend and let us have a surveyor and arbitrators on the spot to settle the questioned boundary. I delayed answering your last letter in the hope that he might, in the instant of receiving my letter write to me off-hand. Having failed to do this the time of his answering is too indefinite to postpone further. The giving you the present state of prospect of the business which you desire.

The state of the case is this. John Carter, eldest son of the family, sold to Monroe, bounding him on the South by a run on the Eastern side of Dick’s plantation, running thence to the source of the 2d run, but no line was actually marked or examined by either party. It is said that John Carter had no right to sell but that Champe from family considerations concluded to acquiesce. I do not know that this fact is true, having it only from neighborhood report. Champe afterwards sold to you, and attended us in surveying & marking the line. Ascending the run far above Dick’s plantation, it formed each run being equally large extending nearly to the top of the mountain, but the Southern branch something the nearest. We knew nothing of the line specified in Monroe’s deed, but Mr. Carter professed to know it & to lead the surveyor, shantied from the fork and run a straight line between the two branches to the top of the mountain, thus dividing the interval which the two branches rendered doubtful; but not a word of any doubt was then expressed; I presumed he knew what was right, and was doing it. Col. Monroe, sometime
after his return from Europe ment? to me in conversation that the line
as run between you & him by mr Carter was, as he had been informed
questionable, but he could not then explain to me how: nor did I ever
learn how till after the sale to Higgins thorpe, indeed from the continued
silence on the subject I believed the claim dropped till I received a line
from Higgins thorpe informing me mr Hay had notified him of it, and
lot o. M. soon afterwards called on me, shewed his deed, and explained
to me for the first time the nature of his claim. we agreed that mr Carter
should be desired to attend, that we would take two neighbors as arbi-
trators, go on the land and settle the question on view. The topics of your
right are these. i. if champagne carters confirmation of John's sale were
necessary to supply the defect of title, then the demarcation of the line which
he made in person was a declaration of the precise extent to which he did
confirm. ii. the run which was made the boundary to it, source,
branching by the way, and each being equally entitled to be considered as
the run whose source was to decide, neither could claim exclusively to be called
Dick's run; the compromise made by mr Carter by running the line between
them was a fair one, and after an acquiescence of 21 years, and that
length of actual & adverse possession in you, ought to be considered as
satisfactory to the practice; and especially when no effective step had
been taken to maintain a contrary claim till after the land had been
long notified as for sale & a sale actually made. The delay of
the settlement has entirely rested with the other party. Price, who
knows the two branches, thinks there may be about 25 acres between
them, one half of which only is within the actual line.

Next as to the prospect. on closing this letter I shall write to John
Carter, who lives in Amherst, for information as to his right, and his idea of
the boundary; if his information is of consequence I shall either get
his deposition taken by consent of parties, or require his personal attend
I must press upon Col. Monroe the fixing a day when he can attend, and some one to act for him, if he does not attend. Chancellor Carter I suppose will readily agree to be bound if he does not attend. I should have been very confident of finishing this at Monroe's next visit, for he is anxious to finish it but that the call of Congress the 19th Sep. will render his attendance difficult. If so, I will endeavor to prevail on him to appoint some one here to act for him; for his personal presence cannot be of much importance.

I think the downfall of Bonaparte a great blessing for Europe, which never could have had peace while he was in power. Every national society there also will be restored to their ancient limits and to the kind of government, good or bad, which they choose. I believe the restoration of the Bourbons is the only point on which France could be rallied, and that their establishment is better for that country than civil wars, whether they should be a peaceable nation under a foolish or a warring one under a military despot of genius. To us alone this brings misfortune, it rids us of all other enemies a tyrannical nation, fully armed, and deeply embittered by the wrongs they have done us. They may greatly distress individuals in their circumstances, but the soil and the men will remain unconquerable by them, and drinking deeper daily at more deadly, unquenchable and everlasting hatred to them. How much less would it cost them, and pain to us, to nourish mutual affections & mutual interests & happiness. But the destructive passions seem to have been implanted in man, as one of the obstacles to his too great multiplication. While we are thus gnawed however by national hatreds we retire with delight into the bosom of our individual friendships in the full feeling of which I salute you affectionately.

Thomas Jefferson