Wilmington Nov'r 8th 1819.

After an absence of 5 mo. spent in Orange County, I returned here two weeks ago & now sit down to answer your several favors of March, May & June last, the first of which was rec'd a few days before I went from this to the Upper Country. Mr. Walker 90 not being here at the time, I left an extract with his Brother relative to the enquiries you wished to make respecting the land Warrant. Since my return have seen J.W.W. for a moment before his departure to Huntsville, who says, that he has no recollection of the circumstances, but that H. Young 60 can inform me; the latter I have not yet seen, but probably shall in a few days, when I will immediately write you. Your lot is not yet sold, the reason is obvious, the pressure of the times & the consequent poverty of those who would otherwise buy. Mr. Toomer is willing to grant all the indulgence you wish, but the prospect of payment in the contemplated way is dull indeed. Aunt Scott has made every possible effort to sell the Sound place in order to pay for it, but without success & my own exigencies are so great that I am not able to assist her. Indeed this is a distressing time, now rendered doubly so by a destructive fire which commenced on Thursday morning last & in a few hours laid in ashes nearly half our devoted Town. From the market wharf along the south side of the St. up to 2nd St., then along the west side of 2nd St. to Orange St. thence down its south side to the water, & thence to the beginning, is one scene of ruin & devastation, with the exception of Kelly's warehouse, formerly Giles, a blacksmith shop & the house on Orange St. which you formerly owned as a Ware house. The destruction of other property is also great, & such was the fury of the devouring flames that it was expected the whole town would go; providentially in the latter part of the fire the wind blew strong from the east or it is probable devastation would have extended even to the church. It is estimated that from 250 to 300 houses, including the new Presbyterian Church, are entirely destroyed, swept as with the broom of destruction. From the course which the devouring element took, you will perceive that you also are a sufferer, that your house was among the number burned & I can only say as Mr. Empire 90 said to us—that it was a judgement for your own misconduct, or that having property among the wicked you suffered with them. It is the Lord, said our good pastor, it is a judgement for our impiety; search your hearts my brethren & see wherein ye have offended. Have you offered up an evening incense to the King of Heaven? Has the language of supplication, thanksgiving & praise ascended daily to Jehovah from the lips of Parents, Children & servants? Have you loved the Lord Jesus Christ & endeavoured through divine grace to testify that love by keeping his commandments? Have ye that faith that purifies the heart. Examine yourselves my Brethren by the rule of God's holy word. Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of Jehovah, confess & forsake your sins, return unto him & he will return unto you. Aunt Scott had written on to Uncle Willkings to insure her house & I believe it was done. If so the loss will not be so great... The proposition to sell Katy was merely Aunt's opinion, she is not at all displeased that you differ from her. I am happy to hear there is no danger of your losing your land through the wiles of the Hero. James W. Walker has removed to a farm near Huntsville, he says with a view to the health of his family. He is now there, but his wife is with us. 12 His land he sold to J. Green 12 for $12,000. the mill is yet his. There is little probability that any of my particular friends or that I myself will ever remove from this State. Though I shall be governed by circumstances as they may occur; yet my present intention is to spend the summer in the Back Country & during Aunt's life the winter here. Next May, God willing, I shall commence a missionary tour through the State. This I hoped to have done sooner, but family affairs prevented, indeed you can judge how difficult it is to study with a family of little ones for whom it is necessary to provide food & raiment. Through the goodness of God however (I have been enabled to get along better than) I had any reason to expect & I will trust in him for the future. It would certainly be pleasant to have a larger tract of land, that your children might settle around you but life is so uncertain & our children have frequently such different views from us, when they arrive at years of discretion, that it is perhaps not a matter of much consequence. If we bring them up in the nurture & admonition of the Lord, they will do well wherever they are. & we shall have done our duty at least & tho separated by mountains & seas we can commend our offspring to him who preserved Moses in his little Ark & Joseph from the fury of his Brethren in order to save much people... I shall now close this long letter & if I hear from H.
Young to whom I have written, before Mr. Wallace goes, will write you. Remember Mary & myself to Mrs. Scott & our little ones to yours & believe me your sincere friend. While I live I trust I shall always be grateful to you & Mrs. S. for former kindness.

**Wilmington, Nov'r 24th 1819.**

I wrote you a few days ago a lengthy letter by Mr. Wallace who has removed from this with a view to settle in your State. I had not then been able to procure information from H. Young with respect to the land Warrant mentioned in yours of 30th March last. The other day I saw him & showed your letter. He says that a power was given to Dillon to locate for the heirs of Toomer\(^44\) but that he had no right to dispose of any part of the land, nay that he was bound to come here before he could receive any portion of the land for himself. He further states the heirs (unless Louis Toomer\(^45\) has sold his claim) are yet entitled to their respective portion. Louis, sometime before he died, sold another claim he had (for a horse) to a Driver of Horses, but whether he disposed of his part of the Warrant you allude to is uncertain. This much he knows that no claim from Dillon is good. Mr. Walker who transacted the business with Dillon (altho not interested himself) took a copy of the Power of Attorney but could not find it among his papers. However H. Young says he was present at the time D. received the power & can vouch for the truth of what I have stated. These are dreadful times with us for money. Kelly, Brgwin & many others are much involved. Mr. Bradley\(^46\) said the other day that if he concluded to build again, he would give you $800 for your two lots in Dock St. You can think of it. Aunt Scott lives in Uncle Willings house & himself & Winslow\(^47\) stay with her. I was desirous that she should stay with us, but she does not like the noise & bustle of children, & on Uncle W's acct. it is better he should be with her for she only [under God] can make him act rationally, that is she only can restrain him from that worst of vices Intemperance. Mrs. King, a son & daughter, are now with us on the way to Fayette. Mary desires to be remembered to you all.

**Wilmington, March 15, 1820.**

Your letter of Jan'y 3d is before [me] but I am so engaged in preparation to meet the Bishop in a few weeks, & in other matters, that I can only say a few words at present. Judge Toomer says he will write requesting your attention to his business in Tennessee. Mr. Bradley will take the lots when you send me a power of Atty. Aunt's house was injured; she has received the money & I have paid Mr. T. for the sound place. You still owe about $500. I believe after the sale of the lots, what shall I do with the bal, to be rec'd in a few months? Aunt is living with Uncle W. but will purchase a small house on the hill. Something I do not know how much) has been rec'd from Charleston & other places for the relief of the sufferers in our fire. I have applied on your behalf But I fear unsuccessfully as the Commrs seem to think that as Aunt has rec'd the insurance, no further claim is correct. I am not of their opinion But they have the distribution of the funds. Is it true that an Episcopal church is about to be erected in Nashville? I hope it is. Remember Mary & myself affect, to Mrs. Scott, & our children to yours. May God of his infinite goodness keep you & yours in all spiritual things for Jesus Christ's sake.

**Fayetteville, July 20th, 1820.**

Yours of 8th May was duly receivd & I regret that you did not write sooner for had your power of Attorney been forwrded immediately I might have got the money for the lots, as Mr. Bradley was then in funds; at present he cannot pay in Cash. I have however settled the am't due to your N.Y. Friends with Mr. P. by an order on Mr. B for $503.78 & the bal. will probably be rec'd in Sept. & if a dft. can be had on Phil'a. Mrs. Wooster, who is in Wilm'n will attend to it. I am now on my Missionary tour & do not expect to return home until 1st Nov. then if it is not done before I will remit you the needful. Considering the hard times, I think the lots very well sold; indeed I believe another purchaser could not have been found for more than 5 or 6 hundred Dollars. The Commrs would not give me anything for your loss. Aunt Scott has at last bot'a house on the Hill for $900\(^48\) It is not certainly necessary for me to assure Mrs. Scott that it will always afford me very great pleasure to receive a letter from her as well as yourself. I leave this [place] in a few hours for Orange, Chatham & on Sunday next I am to preach in Raleigh. If you have anything to communicate before I return to Wilmington, direct to Williamsborough, Granville County.
Warrenton, Sept. 18th, 1820.

I have rec'd a letter from my wife saying that the power of Atty last sent by you is incomplete, it wants a seal. I am sorry for this as it will again cause some delay, had I been at home I would have settled the business with the first power, which I think was sufficient. As the business now stands you must send on another as soon as possible, direct to Wilmington where I shall be in 3 or 4 weeks. Let not this delay cause you any uneasiness. Unless we die there will be no further difficulty after you send on a power duly signed & Sealed. Excuse me, I have to preach in a few moments. The Lord be with you all.

Wilmington, Nov'r 30th, 1820.

I am sorry to say that even the power of Atty. last sent, is not sufficient. It is indeed correct as to form (in itself) but is not properly authenticated; in consequence of which nothing has been done; and you must not calculate on the money from Mr. Bradley until you hear that I have it in possession, or receive it yourself. When I left here on my Missionary Tour I thought everything would be adjusted in a few weeks, as I wrote from Fayetteville, but when Mr. Toomer presented my order on Mr. Bradley he refused to pay it, having seen your second letter and perceived that both powers were incomplete. Would any other person buy it I would sell, but I believe that five hundred dollars could not be had at present; indeed it is doubtful whether a purchaser could be found at any price, such is the scarcity of money. All that can be done now is to settle with Mr. B. as soon as he is disposed to do so. You will therefore send me another Power so authenticated as to entitle it to Registration. When having no further plea to procrastinate Mr. B. will probably pay me. Our law directs that before a Power of Atty. can be registered, that it must be "proved or acknowledged before the Chief Justice, or any of the Judges of the Courts of Supreme jurisdiction in "Your State" or in a County Court thereof, & be duly certified by the Clerk of the Court or a notary or tabellion public". (see Haywoods Manual). You must then send me a Power proved before a Judge of the State in which you live, or acknowledged in open (County) Court & certified by the Clerk of said Court. When I receive such a power perhaps I may get the money (for your lots) which shall be forwarded immedi. I am really sorry for the difficulties which have arisen in this business but you know "Man is born to trouble", I have read your letter to Aunt Scott attentively but it would require too much time & paper to say what I wish & would say to you were we together. Let it suffice at present that I rejoice in the change which has taken place in your Family & that you now unite each morn & eve in offering up the sacrifice of prayer & praise to the Father of Mercies... But on the other hand I cannot but regret that you have hastily left the church in communion with [which] your Father lived & died & of which you & your children were members by baptism. Besides I verily believe as our P[ray]er Book states in the preface to the ordination service that it is evident unto all men diligently reading Holy Scriptures & ancient authors, that from the Apostles time there have been three orders of Ministers in Christ Church, Bishops, Priests & Deacons; consequently I cannot consider the Sacraments duly administered by any others; & numbers of Presby'r Preachers, both in England & this country, have thought so too & therefore been ordained in our Church. The doctrines Of Election & reprobation as found in the Pres'n Confession of Faith with the opinions resulting from a belief of them I conceive absolutely contrary to Scripture, & although I know you will say you had no opportunity of uniting in public Worship with Episcopalians, or of receiving the Sacrament from our Ministers; yet I cannot think the reasoning good for you might by proper exertions have perhaps obtained an Episcopal Divine or you might have waited till God saw fit to send servants into your part of his vineyard; uniting in the interim in public Worship with others or at home with your family in the services of our Church. Your neighbour State Ken'y is now blessed with a Bishop & several Presbyters, men full of true Zeal who will doubtless endeavour to establish the Church in your State where there are many Episcopal Families. Now as you were an Episcopalian instead of leaving us, I think you ought to have endeavoured all in your power to promote the interests of our Zion & I doubt not God would in his own good time have blessed those endeavours, as he has ours in this State... Remember Mary & myself affect to. Mrs. Scott & others. We should be glad to have your daughter or any part of the family who visits this place, to spend part of their time at least with us. God Bless you all & give you peace both now & ever.

[note added] These are distressing times. J.F. Burgwin, Reston, Ceer, Wms & John Lord & doubtless many others owe more or as much as they can pay. Mr. Cochran has resigned the Collectorship & gone I know not where, I indebted to Gov't it is said $100,000. You know him in the estimation of the world he was good man & a Presbyterian but he was not a Christian. This event was unexpected and his family & many others feel it sensibly.

Wadesborough, Anson Co. Oct'r 4th, 1821.

Perhaps it might have relieved your anxiety to hear from me sooner in reply to yours of 16th May last but I delayed from time to time in hope of having something satisfactory & definitive to communicate notwithstanding all my diligence however, in urging Mr. B. I could not effect anything like a settlement, until the last of June when Mr. B. agreed to give Mr. Toomer a note of Mr. McKays for the claim against you & to pay me the bal. sometime this fall or winter. Mr. Toomer would not accept the note until he had seen or heard from McKay. This he has been prevented from doing by sickness & other untoward circumstances until lately as you will perceive from an enclosed note received a few days ago in reply to one from me. Mr. Bradley I have not seen since June as my Missionary labours were required in this & the adjoining counties; but it is not probable that anything satisfactory would have been done had I been with him, as he is hard run for Cash, although owning a great deal of property & having large claims agst others; at present all business is at a stand in Wilmington owing to the existence of Malignant Fever, & very little will be done before November, during which month I shall return with my family & hope to close your business. If however before I can effect a settlement, you think proper to retain the Lots, perhaps Mr. Bradley would relinquish his desire to purchase; yet I do not know that more could be had for them, even many years hence & shall therefore use every endeavour to close the business on the plan proposed, that is if I can settle the am't with Mr. Toomer. I shall be satisfied & we must get the other as soon as possible. Mr. B. has declared that he would willingly pay the money if he had it, but that it is utterly out of his power at present, & I am convinced he speaks truth. You must therefore trust to providence & bear your disappointment patiently. Were I at home, perhaps something might be effected a little sooner than Nov'r or Dec'r. I would therefore have directed John Wooster to attend to the business. Was it any other man
than Mr. B. with whom we had to deal, but taking that & other circumstances into view I was disposed to think it inexpedient: & that my absence would not be as prejudicial as the interference of any other person. Rest assured that I shall do all I can to promote your interest & through frequently disappointed we may yet hope everything will be finally adjusted, when I return to Wilmington. Mr. Meares has I presume before this answered your letter but I have not seen him for some months. John Carrol I saw in Fayette time ago, but I understand he is not there at present. Aunt Scott & other friends are at the Sound & were all well a week or two ago. Poor Thurber & Mrs. Morrison are perhaps the only persons of your acquaintance who have fallen a sacrifice to the prevailing fever in that ill fated Town Wilmington. The accounts from there last week were alarming, new cases multiplied almost hourly. My family have been for some months last residing in this village which I consider as head Quarters & from whence I travel to Rowan, Lincoln & where we have several congregations. Although Wadesborough is considered a healthy place, yet my family have all been indisposed. I myself very sick for a fortnight. In two or three days I commence my last tour into the upper counties, which will occupy 5 or 6 weeks; after which we shall remove to Wilmington where you may direct your letters. Notwithstanding your many disappointments in this Quarter. I hope Providence has enabled you to get along with less difficulty than most of us do here; never was there as much distress in money matters before; many who were formerly considered the most wealthy people in Wilmington are not worth a cent; witness Burgwin, [illegible], others whom I mentioned in my last. I am truly glad that I have not engaged in trade of late years. With the hire of Negroes, dividend of Stock & two hundred & fifty dollars for 6 months Missionary labour. I manage to get along as easily as most others; indeed the Almighty has been kind & merciful & I have only to regret that my gratitude & love are far short of what they ought to be... 

Wilmington, March 5th 1822.

Yours of the 24th Dec is now before me & I am happy to reply to it as soon as possible by informing you that about three weeks since, I settled with Mr. Toomer and took his rec'd for $555.99. A few days ago the bal. due by Mr. Bradley was received & I now send you a check which I was fortunate in obtaining at 2 per cent for Five hundred and nine Dollars 75/100. A small amount remains due as pr. acct. which I will send as soon as I can get a U.S. note. Mr. Meares knows nothing of any payment made in Newburn & thinks it all a sham. He says the Gen'l requested permission to come to town a few days ago, but he would not consent unless the amount due was paid. He does not know how the property now stands but will make inquiries & says that had it not been for negligence or something worse of the Sheriff of Brunswick, your money might have been obtained before this. He intends to institute a suit vs Sheriff & hopes to force the Gen'l to settle your demand. I am really pleased that part of your Carolina business has been this far closed, and although it has given you some trouble & uneasiness, yet perhaps you ought to be thankful that it is no worse. The marriage of your daughter at first surprised us, so imperceptibly does time pass away that we still fancied her a little girl. May the Almighty bless her & her husband in spiritual & temporal things & may they both continue his faithful servants unto their lives end. To Thomas I will write as you request, although I am so much engaged that I cannot do it just now. I wish indeed the Lord had inclined his heart to enter the Ministry instead of a store. For the good opinion of yourself & family I am thankful, yet I would much rather have your prayers than praises because I stand in [need?] of the first & not of the last. I have only time to add that Mary & Aunt Scott desire to be remembered to you all & to pray that God may bless you for Jesus Christ's sake. [note added] In May 1818, Mr. Joa. Scott assumed to pay Jno. D. Tommer the bal. of an acct. which was due by Mr. Scott To Jno. Clark, Jr. of New York. Mr. Scott admitted that there had been a bal. of $542.84 due since July 16, 1810 & being a New York debt it drew interest at 7 pr. ct. 

$542.84 prin't sum due July 16, 1810 
$362.48½ It. at 7 pr. ct. from July 16, 1810 till Feb. 1, 1820 
$905.32½ Amt. due Feb'y. 1, 1820 
410. Payt. made on Mrs. E. Scott's note Feb. 1, 1820 & credited to Mr. Scott's acct. 
$495.32½ bal. of prin't due Feb'y. 1, 1820 
$606.67½ Int. at 7 pr. ct. on above bal. from Feb'y. 1, 1820 to Nov'y. 1, 1821, one year & nine months 
$555.99½ Amt due Nov'y 1, 1821. 
Mr. John Scott in acct. with Thos. Wright 
Paid J. D. Toomer $555.99½ 
Paid Holmes for app'n to Court Officers, fees &c. * 10. 
Recording Deed, J. Willings to R. Scott .75 
Check on N. York & prem. Drs. 214. 
760.74½ By cash rec'd from Mr. Bradley $244. 
Order on Mr. B. in favor of Toomer 555.99½ Drs 800. 
760.74½ due Mr. Scott 19.25½

The a.m't. to Printer I do not recollect at present but will deduct it when I send the bal. *This $10 you wished Aunt to pay, but she had not the Money & Holmes had an execu'n agst. the lots, so that I was obliged to pay it from your funds.

Wilmington, May 29th, 1822.

Yours of the 25th ulto. was received today as I am just on the eve of departure for Wadesborough, Anson County. I have only time to say that I saw Mr. Meares a few days since, who says that he thinks he will get the amount due by Gen'l Smith in August. He has his written promise to pay at that time. At present Mr. Meares is not in Town but Mr. Dudley will inform him of your views & wishes. I would remit the balance due you but I do not recollect the amount you owe Mr. Smith for the paper. Be good enough to let me know & I will close all accounts between us of a pecuniary nature. Aunt Scott is quite unwell today. Not long since she sold the Sound place for $150. Money is so very scarce that it is almost impossible to get along; indeed I never saw such times in Wilmington, perhaps however it is no better with you. Uncle Willings after striving for years in New York
talks of removing to Fayette. Edward has been there, a clerk to Jacob Levy on a salary of $500 for 12 months or more. Very little comfort in this World my dear Sir, we must therefore endeavour more earnestly to secure our inheritance in the next, where happiness will never end. Remember Mary & myself affectionately to Mrs. Scott & our little ones to yours. God bless you all.

**Hillsborough, Dec'r 19th, 1822.**

As the Rev'd Mr. Norment will probably pass your way, I sit down for a moment to say that after a somewhat tedious journey I arrived here safe & sound a few days ago & found all well. In two weeks I shall probably see Aunt Scott & if I can arrange my business in Wilmington, sell some property &c. &c. so as to enable me to remove to your State. You shall hear from me again. Mr. Norment goes to Tenn'e with a view to establish a Female Seminary as well as to officiate in the Ch. & I hope he may find a situation to please him. He can tell you all about us which I have not time to do, as several Gentlemen have called to see me & Mr. N. goes in the Stage. Mary begs to be kindly remembered to Mrs. Scott & yourself & says you must try & move once more if we do. Like Mrs. Scott she prefers the Society of old friends. Mr. Anderson of this place & some other families in & near Salisbury talk of accompanying us Westwards. I hope too that Wm. Green will follow me at least. His health is much better & he would be a great acquisition to the Church. Poor Mr. London returned to Wilmington very ill & still continues so. There is hope & that is all that he may recover. I would say a great deal about my eccentric Companion Mr. Lee, & something about the Poney which my boys would have been glad to have welcomed with me but company prevents & I must beg you therefore to remember me affectionately to Mrs. Scott & all your children & believe me Your Sincere friend.

Thos. Wright.

[this letter was addressed to John Scott, Esq'r., Davis' Mills, Tennessee.]

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**FOOTNOTES**

39. James W. Walker, born 1770, the son of James & Magdalene Margaret duBois Walker, St. James records.

40. Henry Young, died July 1824, St. James records.

41. The Reverend Adam Empie was the rector of St. James 1811-14; he resigned to become the first chaplain of the United States Military Academy at West Point; he was rector again 1816-1827; he resigned to become president of William & Mary College, Williamsburg, Virginia. St. James records.

42. Elizabeth Walker. St. James records.

43. James Severn Green, born 1792, died of Yellow Fever 28 September 1802, married Ann Nesfield Cochran, married 2nd Mrs. Caroline Davis Holmes 13 February 1844; he was a brother-in-law of Mr. Wright. St. James records; Green family records.

44. Henry Toomer will, probated March Court 1799, names sons Anthony, John and Lewis Henry, daughters Mary Jane & Eliza and brothers Joshua & Anthony, Eliza married Henry Young, St. James records; New Hanover County Will Book AB-23.

45. Louis Toomer's funeral was 23 September 1817. St. James records.

46. Richard Bradley died March 1834, age 64. St. James records.

47. Probably John, the brother of Mr. Scott's mother; was a merchant & in 1815 advertised for sale his summer residence on Wrightsville Sound, adjoining residence of John R. London, north of Lee's Creek (Bradley Creek); John Willkings, Scott & Company advertised in the Wilmington Gazette 4 June 1805. Williams & McClearn, Salt, That Necessary Article. Winslow was probably the son of John and he was the nephew of Elizabeth Scott; his will probated December 1835 names wife Sophia and children not yet of age. St. James records; New Hanover County Will Book AB-318; see footnote 8.

48. Cornelius Hurst to Eliza Scott, 1 July 1820, for $900 a lot 66 ft. square, beginning 86 ft. from the corner of Orange & 2nd streets, south side of Orange to lower corner of Harris' lot on the south. New Hanover County Deed Book R-186.

49. Williamsboro, now in Vance County, was laid out in 1786, was first called The Lick for a salt lick in the vicinity. St. John's Episcopal Church, dating from 1757, has been restored. Powell, *The North Carolina Gazetteer*.


51. Robert Cochran, Collector of the Port of Wilmington, was in Fayetteville by February 1822; he repaid the money. *Reaves, Southport (Smithville and Environs, Vol. I) Christopher Dudley, Jr. letter of 25 February, 1822 to Robert Scott in the Archives of the Lower Cape Fear Historical Society*.

52. The enclosed note was from John D. Toomer from Fayetteville, dated 26 September 1821.

53. John Wooster had pew 90, side gallery St. James Church, in 1817; he married Lucy Wright 14 May 1818; his son Charles Henry was born 31 July 1818. St. James records.


55. Mrs. Morrison died in 1821, St. James records.

56. General Benjamin Smith.

57. Christopher Dudley, Jr., married Leah Spicer of Topsail 3 August 1806; he died 14 October 1840, age 60; Leah died 25 August 1841 age 50. St. James records.

58. Elizabeth Scott sold Maurice Parker 29 acres on the Sound between the salt works now owned by Caleb Nichols & the land of Miles Blake; Caleb Nichols salt works was on Greeneville Sound. New Hanover Deed Book S. P. 108; *Salt, That Necessary Article*, Williams & McClearn.

59. M. R. Wilkins & family were living in Fayetteville 15 January 1824. Dudley letter to Scott, Archives Lower Cape Fear Historical Society.

60. William Mercer Green, brother-in-law of Mr. Wright, became the first Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi. St. James records; Green family records.

61. John R. London's funeral was held 18 December 1832; he was 46. St. James records.