(1)

Ashtabula, Mar. 27th 1896

Mr. Tourgee

Dear sir:—

I will now drop you a few lines in regard, to find out about your little farm.

Last fall, my wife and I made a call at Mr. Ambrose. your neighbor we was looking around for a farm to rent, and they told us we are foolish to rent and move around when we can buy on such terms as you offer.

We told them the chance is good, but if we haint got the hundred dollars to pay down. we cant buy it. they thought we could sell off a hundred dollars worth of stock

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and get along with less cows
and horses on a small place

Mr. Ambrose took me over
the place I liked it pretty
well, the back part is badly
broken. he told us that Mr.
Wright had the selling of it.
we then left it for at that
for quite a while, but still had
it on our mind.

Then we wrote to Mr Wright
about it, and he was not at home
till just the other day, we
heard he was at home, so we
went and seen him, he said he
was away all winter and dont
know what arangements you
have made with the place now
he said that I had better
write to you

Now, if I could buy the place
I would have to build, a little

right off. the house is to
small for my family, and
there is many other things
to do, before any one can live
there and keep stock. there is
no fence around the barn and
I would want a lane out to
the pasture and woods. I would
have to have a wagon shed, and a
hog pen,
It would take more money
than we have an idea to start
with. there for I will ask you
if you will make the
payments still lighter. if you
could take fifty dollar ($50.00) payments
for the first 2 or 3 years, then
I believe we could pay for the
place all right. you know the
way the times are now we all
want a good chance to pay for
a place if we buy it

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we buy it we shall try hard to
pay for it. if we dont it
isint because we dont work hard
enough. we are Wayne Co. people
we lived close where Mr.
Ambrose lived.

We are getting tired working
for other people, and moving
around. well I thought like this.
if you can rent it for fifty
dollars a year and have it farmed
in such a way, and have everything
drawed off. and no manure made
on the place. I hate to see land
rotted in this way. I have bought
5 poor farms up in better shape
for other people and I would
like very much to bring one up
for my self.

I would expect to farm fields
out and bring stuff home
instead of taking off Mr.
Ambrose said I can get all
the land I want to farm on
shares. Mrs. Edsworth has offered
me her 90 acres already to
farm.

Now I will close and
would like to hear from you
soon.

now as the time is short near
April and you perhaps
have rented the place for
this year again if you have
rented it we will buy it
next fall. we can stay where
we are this year we are not
obliged to move

I understand you want a thousand dollars. I will not ask you to take any less, although if I had little more money I could better myself.

I live in Plymouth township, there is a 35 acres in our neighborhood can be bought for $400, there is good fair buildings on and a good orchard and a good well of water but they want $500 down.

my address

Joseph Still,

Ashtabula,

Yours very truly. Ashtabula Co., Ohio.

Mr. Wright had was sick. when he got home he said he was getting better he was just able to set up.

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