

1858

April May 1st

Burns Shawassee Co Mich

Dear Friends after the lapse
of so many ^{years} you have thought prop-
-er to ^{write} a few ~~times~~ to me to let us know
that some of you are yet on earth
we are all alive as yet but it will
be a short time that you or I can say so
My family is in usual health my
wife's health is very poor she has
the Asthma and the Smoke last fall
very near took her from me and
I ^{think} but it will yet do so My health
is good this winter and Spring so far
I have lived here 5 years and over
and I have had the ague and fever
3 out of that time you ask how I came
to go to Michigan I answer the Dutch
settled all round me and that in-
-vaded the Society we could not keep up
our prayer Meetings and they tried
to have their language taught in our
Schools so I thought I would leave
I looked through that State and found

that I could not find a healthy
a place that I could better my condition
and as the girls were both married and
had families and wanted to live near
us. I heard of this indian tract for Sale
I came to see it and liked it I attended
the Sale at Detroit and purchased
a half Section so we all settled together
on the river bank of the Shiawassee a
Saw mill was put up last Summer
and a grist Mill this which we have
given the privilege I find that too
much land in a new place is like
Self righteousness the more we have
the worse we are off because taxes are
so high on new land you also state
that you liked Iowa if you was
to go there in the winter you might
say different you also inform me
that your Father's family is very
much broken you say he still is
alive which I am very happy to hear
Also though bereaved of an earthly

Friend yet his loss is her gain
Also that Christ has said my grace is
Sufficient for thee it is not long that
he will be behind her if she died
as she lived when I knew her
I wish to die as with the same
exercise of grace then when this
Soul shall leave the body I can
land on that peaceful Shore and
join with her and other of my friends
to sing the praises of redeeming love
you wished me to write to your
Father I admit he wrote me a good
letter in answer to the one I wrote
to you you have not informed me
whether that letter was acceptable
but I wish you ^{to read this for} ~~as~~ his hair must
be white as well as mine that every
day brings us nearer together where
if we live as I know he once lived
we will meet them we once loved
Supremely and join them around
the throne it will be but few days

And now Sir I would to you
and my Friends that are on
Earth as it probably that we
may not meet on the Shores of time
please write that I may hear
from you till Wm M Farland
informs me that I would hardly
know any there Give my love
to your wife although I never have
seen her and to all enquiring
Friends I remain Yours &c

Saml Shields

Wm James Shields Coon

this is poorly wrote for a person 64
years of Age on the 21st of last Month

BORN April 21, 1794