



25.

Richard I Smith Esq. (of et. c.)  
Philadelphia

Milton N. C. May 23<sup>d</sup> 1838

Dear Sir -

Your esteemed favor of the 15<sup>th</sup> came to hand in due time - and I have no doubt your purchases were all judiciously made -

I have sent down 14 barrels of your flour and 6 of Cornis, (to Weldon) to be sold or exchanged for Herrings - which have advanced since you were at Gaston - as W. Pugh informs me - he had to give more for those you directed him to buy than what you expected - but as he neglected to enclose the bill I do not know exactly what he gave, but expect it was 5¢ - from a remark of his, that they had advanced 50cts -

Only two of your kds, of Tobacco have come in as yet - as soon as the others come in I will try and send them off, but as yet there has been no oppy as all the boats were engaged -

When last heard from, your family were well. I addressed a letter to you for Mary by last mail which will doubtless reach you before this - your mother is staying with us at present - she is in her usual health, and appears to enjoy herself as well as could be expected -

I have nothing interesting to communicate but feel anxious to hear from you again as to

the doings of the General Assembly  
My family are in usual health, and unite  
with me in love to You -  
Yrs affly in haste  
Edison

Remember me to Mr Harding. His family  
I believe are well except that Mr H. had an  
attack of asthma a few days ago which may  
not have entirely subsided - altho very much better.  
It is highly probable that I will write to  
You at Richmond, to the care of Lewis Webb  
Esq -

Letter from John Wilson to Richard Ivy Smith - transcribed by John D. Storey, 2<sup>nd</sup> great-grandson of R I Smith, from the original in his possession, March 27, 2010

Postmarked MILTON                      and franked for 25¢  
                    MAY 24  
                    N.C.

(addressed to) Richard I Smith<sup>1</sup> (of N.C.)  
                                    Philadelphia<sup>2</sup>

Milton N.C. May23d 1838

Dear Sir

Your esteemed favor of the 15<sup>th</sup> came to hand in due time - and I have no doubt your purchases were all judiciously made.

I have sent down 14 barrels of your flour and 6 of Dr. Comer's,<sup>3</sup> (to Weldon) to be sold or exchanged for Herrings - which have advanced since you were at Gaston - as TW (?) Pugh informs me - he had to give more for those you directed him to buy than what you expected - but as he neglected to enclose the bill I do not know exactly what he gave, but expect it was 5\$ - from a remark of his, that they had advanced 50 (cents).

Only two of your hhds (hogsheads?) of Tobacco have come in as yet - as soon as the others come in I will try and send them off, but as yet there has been no oppy (opportunity) as all the boats were engaged.

When last heard from, your family were well. I addressed a letter to you from Mary<sup>4</sup> by last mail which will doubtless reach you before this. Your mother<sup>5</sup> is staying with us at present. She's in her usual health, and appears to enjoy herself as well as could be expected.

I have nothing interesting to communicate but feel anxious to hear from you again as to the doings of the General Assembly<sup>6</sup>.

My family are in usual health, and unite with me in love to you.

Yrs affy (affectionately), in haste  
J Wilson<sup>7</sup>

Remember me to Mr. Harding.<sup>8</sup> His family I believe are well except that Mrs.H.<sup>9</sup> had an attack of asthma a few days ago which may not have entirely subsided - altho very much better. It is highly probable that I will write to you at Richmond, to the care of Lewis Webb.<sup>10</sup>

Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Richard Ivy Smith (16 February 1800 – 28 July 1871): farmer/businessman; partner with his brother-in-law, John Wilson, in mercantile business in Milton, North Carolina.

<sup>2</sup> Richard Ivy Smith apparently was in Philadelphia as an Elder Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, USA (see footnote six below).

<sup>3</sup> Possibly the “Dr. John Comer” who died in 1851 in Caswell County.

<sup>4</sup> Most likely Mary Amis Goodwin Smith, Richard Ivy Smith’s wife.

<sup>5</sup> Elizabeth Harrison Smith (28 February 1772 – 17 December 1838). She was also John Wilson’s mother-in-law.

<sup>6</sup> The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, USA, held in Philadelphia in 1838 was a contentious one, marking the formal split between “Old School” and “New School” Presbyterians. Smith would have been an adherent of the former group. A succinct description of the events of the General Assembly and the issues involved can be found at:

[http://hopereformedpresbyterian.com/files/Turning\\_Points\\_in\\_American\\_Presbyterian\\_Historypt6.pdf](http://hopereformedpresbyterian.com/files/Turning_Points_in_American_Presbyterian_Historypt6.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> John Wilson (10 October 1796 – 21 October 1875), Richard Ivy Smith’s brother-in-law and business partner.

<sup>8</sup> Nehemiah Henry Harding, pastor of Red House Presbyterian Church, 1838 -1840, and at Milton Presbyterian Church, 1840-1849. He would likely have also been at the Philadelphia General Assembly with Richard Ivy Smith.

<sup>9</sup> Nehemiah Henry Harding’s wife, Hannah Smith Harding (no relation to Richard Ivy Smith as far as I know).

<sup>10</sup> I have three Lewis Webb entries in my family database:

(a) Lewis Webb (b. Jan 15 1789), son of John Webb and Amy Booker of Granville County. He was 1<sup>st</sup> cousin, once removed of Richard Ivy Smith.

(b) Lewis Nuttall Webb (d. 1870 in Richmond, VA) son of the Lewis above and Ann Nuttall. He was 2<sup>nd</sup> Cousin of Richard Ivy Smith.

(c) Lewis Webb (no date), son of Thomas Webb (b. Dec. 26, 1776) and Mary Jane Thomas. He was nephew of (a) above and another 2<sup>nd</sup> cousin of R I Smith

Most likely it was (b). This Lewis Webb is described in *Our Webb Kin of Dixie* as “Killed when the capitol building at Richmond fell in 1870.”