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1841 February 9: J. Pope, Washington City, to unknown, Concerning New Madrid land claims of Chester Ashley

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(B)

Washington City
May 9th 1841

Dear Sir

I hasten to answer yours of the 16th of last month, I made no verbal agreement with Co^s Ashley or Russell or either of them my contracts with them were in writing and carefully drawn, with a view to secure and advance the interest of the Territory.

Ashley and Russell agreed to waive all claim which they or either of them had to the 840 acre location below and adjoining the Town, provided I would let them locate or purchase a small fraction on the River, where Cal-
away lived at a certain price which my accounts and ^{other} papers will show, Russell had no interest in the Madrid claim, South of the Town and told me that he thought Ashley had, but had difficulty in our getting the title from him, and at length I had a conversation with Ashley and under the impression that one half of 160 acres which I believed would be worth five or ten times as much as any other land I could locate inquired of him on what terms he could consent to let me locate and patent the 160 acres or had a conversation with him to that effect, we agreed I should if practicable procure a patent for the land and that he would waive or release all interest in the Madrid claim, and that the 160 acres should be divided between the Territory and himself - Except that in addition to the one half the Territory should have ^{unnecessary} acres for a Penitentiary and acres for a College or ^{university} and perhaps there was some other Reservations to the Territory for other purposes in the whole the Territory was to have ^{had} three fifths ($\frac{3}{5}$ ths) of the 160 acres or near that proportion, my impressions are strong, and recollections are clear, as to the substance of

the contracts although I may be inaccurate as to some un-
-important details, Those and all ^{other} contracts made by me
as Gov^r were delivered by myself or some person for me
to my successor or his Secretary, about this I am clear
an positive, because I know the danger of assault
Right or wrong if any pretext was furnished, You
have all the information in my power from recollection
to give and those contracts ought to be in the papers of
the Gov^r or Secretary, —

I am sorry I have not time to give you a dish of politics,
but hope to have more leisure before the close of the
Session

Your friend
A. Pope.