

North Benton
Mahoning Co. O
Feb. 25th 1888

Dear Alvin

In your letter of the second of this month, you say you have prospects of selling your land where you now live and you want to know whether I will sell my remaining interest on the same quarter section on certain conditions. I say yes. But you think there are some missing links to my title to the property. Well in the first place there were only two legal heirs to this bounty land which the government has ? to the heirs of Wm A. Strong. It is true that there is a half brother by the name of Ira Strong, who is the son and only one of his Wm. Strong second wife. My Father enlisted into the United States service, for five years before this son was born. Wm. A. Strong was one of the first settlers of Atwater Township in Portage County. Emigrated from Connecticut in 1806. The family lived here several years, and had the best improvements in the settlement at that time in 1811. But mother became so terrible dissatisfied with the new country she was determined to go back to Connecticut. Father furnished a horse, saddle, one bridle and money and she started for Connecticut, leaving father, myself and Luzern Strong who was a nursing child yet, he was handed over to one of the neighbor women to nurse. Well Father after awhile went back to Connecticut to see if she then after staying a while out there would be willing to come back to Ohio. But he could not prevail on her to come back so he left and returned to Ohio. All the property he owned was in Ohio and here were two boys to provide for, he kept house himself and I lived with him, but Luzern had to be kept by strangers. Under these harassing circumstances he married Julia Huton as his second wife, not having a divorce from his first. This no doubt could have been obtained, but would have been at great expense and trouble at that day which he could hardly stand. This settles the matter of Ira Strong's legal heirship but Ira Strong did acquire an interest in this bounty land by my consent and purchase. I allowed him the half of a third interest. Luzern claimed the half. Ira Strong never resented it but Ira and myself bought Luzern out and subsequently I bought Ira Strong's interest and I send you the deed which is not recorded in your county and if it is necessary have it done and charge the expense to me.

The next point to be considered is Luzern's wife and heirs. Between fifty and sixty years ago Luzern Strong went to Connitticut, there he married a wife and went to house keeping. There were two children born by this marriage. But this family did not stay together long. Luzern drank too much whiskey, and came home from his work too much loaded with whiskey and probably abusive to his family. The mother-in-law a pretty thorough-going woman by the way a widow. She drove him off. She has taken her daughter and her children home. He provided little or nothing for their support having spent and scattered \$500.00 he got by his wife. I learned this from a letter his Mother-in-law wrote me. I have never been able to get any information of the parties since. I have written but received no answer. Luzern wrote after coming to Ohio to his acquaintances in Connitticut to gain information from the children, they were both girls he could not hear anything from them. Some years after, Luzern went to Connitticut himself but failed to get any trace of them. Now you will have much ? there of any of this family. Now this family had experience enough of Luzern Strong to know that he would not leave any property behind. That he would be sure to use it as fast as he could get a hold of it. I bought Luzern's interest in thy land out there and there is deed on record in your county and a record of the government warrant. Luzern Strong wanted to sell out. I did not want to have a stranger in company so I bought him out. You will see there is an explanation in the deed. The warrant was in the hands of Tilden Oronny, lawyers at Revonna, Portage, Co. The deed was gotten up partly from memory. I will sell one third down and remainder in equal several payments with interest at 6 per cent. All taxes must be paid that accrue after sale. I should make some reserve on the timber, not to have it wantonly run over until paid for. You can have the first payment on the land if you wish by complying with the conditions you propose in your letter. And it may be that I may modify the conditions laid down if a good sale can be secured.

Alonzo Strong