Dear John:

It is easier to return from Greece bodily than it is mentally. Physically I know that I am in Miami, because it is hot, mentally I am still chasing ewes up the slopes of Delphi.

However, I have had time to do more than just look at the material you sent while I was away. Tomorrow I start work on the mars. I have all I need in that department.

The Vernon Wills material appears to provide a clue to the relationship of John Puller Smith and Willis Golder Smith in an unexpected way. If you refer to the Leeds Manor map of 1817 you will find that Capt. Joseph Smith had 673 acres adjoining 102 acres Turner Dixon purchased from the Marshalls. In the division of the Turner Dixon estate this land including the mill, fell to William Dixon, who soon died. George B. Dixon sold part of this 280 acres containing the mill to James Morehead (34a lr 37p) 2 Nov. 1832. The remainder he sold to Maria Willis (248a 3r 28p) on the same day. Maria Willis died 5 Oct. 1835 and her executor James Keith Marshall (probably her great nephew) put her land up to auction. It was bid in by his brother, Edward Carrington Marshall. End of the story of that land.

However Capt. Joseph was, I am nearly certain, the father of Willis Golder Smith and the brother of John Winn Smith (1745-1811)

They were sons of \_\_\_\_\_\_ Smith (ca. 1720-?) and his wife \_\_\_\_\_

Golder, who lived near Fredericksburg. Hence the name Golder appears in both families. In the division of the estate of Captain Joseph Smith, Willis Golder Smith's share was 96 acres adjoining Morehead's Mill on Thumb Run. Willis Golder Smith, (1777-1820), married, 1805 his first cousin Sarah(fally) Smith (b: 1779). He was dead before 1832 when Morehead bought the mill from the Dixon estate. His sen Willis Golder Smith, Jr. died in 1832, also before the sale. However the eldest sons of W.G. Smith Sr. were James, Joseph and John, one of whom probably inherited the tract adjoining Morehead's Bill. The house at Vernon Mills could not have been built by Willis Golder Smith. and was certainly not built before 1832.

The most likely individuals to have purchased the Morehead Mill tract between Nov. 1832 and 1840 was Joseph B. Smith, b: 1810 who was 22 in 1832, and his brother John P. Smith who was 19. They, or one of them, apparently built the new mill and the house which appears to date from the period. Their uncle, John Puller Smith lived until 1838, their mother in Sept. 1857. The boys sold some of their mother's slaves to pay off other heirs of Capt. Joseph Smith. That is apparently what the chancery suit was all about. James G. Smith and his sisters Margaret (wife of James T. Ball) and Sally (wife of George W.Davis) had probable cause for complaint that they were getting the short end of the stick in the division of their mother's slaves, but the case is so complicated that it would take Solomon to figure it out. Obviously the solution was not to cat each slave in five pieces and give each one.

Then, to complicate things further Mary Smith, another daughter BPWillis Golder and Sally (Smith) Smith, married her cousin John Thomas Smith (known as John T. Smith) in 1858. When Sally (Smith) Smith died 28 Hov. 1857 everything was ready for a nice big chancery suit in which Smiths had married Smiths to the utter confusion of most people. When the Vernon Hills estate was surveyed in March, 1860 the surveyor did not know which Smith owned it . The blank space probably indicates the late Mrs. Sally Smith, as she was the only one who owned both halves and was also "late". However he got the "Mill Tract" survey wrong at 41 acres. He was probably prodded by loud screams from the Marshalls to resurvey it in accordance with the old George B. Dixon to James Morehead survey of 1832. (34a lr 28p) The property has about the same configuration today. (See map) Part of it is Lot 7 (see 4) Most of the rest is in Clarence Davis' "Runnymeade". This latter tract appears to contain a lot more of Capt. Joseph Smith's 673 acres, plus part of the Dixon tract south of "Bleak House" part of Lucius Dixon's dower land he sold to Thomas Dixon Scott.

There is some guesswork in the above. Tell me where I guessed wrong!

I have not proof-read the Dixon Valley text (and don't plan to) (affented from beauthous), bidger Springs Valley of the Trans Plane. probably "Eastwood", Westwood, Mount Jett and old Moreland. I am merely referring to the part of Moreland outside the Dixon tract.

There is some confusion in my mind about Valleydale Farm despite

all the information you have sent me. Referring again to the tax map enclosed. I cannot place Brown's Lane, principally because Ada is not specifically located. I assume that it follows one of the lot lines into Hacker's, but which one? The entrance seems to be from the east, but on the tax map it shows from the south on a road by the church. Can you locate approximately the old chimmey on the tax map. of which I am sending two copies, one to return with comment. Fossibly the "lower house" was one of the outbuildings of "Bastwood" and the chimmey marks the site of the manor house.