

Carthage Illinois Sept 6th 1834

Dear Cousin  
Very contrary to my  
expectations when I last saw you I  
have landed in Illinois the fairest  
portion of the union the more  
Illinois is explored and known the  
more we find it is saturated with  
and to admire

the quantity and  
and quality of the fertile soil cannot  
be equaled by any other State in the  
union Almost the whole State is  
susceptible of profitable cultivation  
and occupies the most conspicuous  
and fortunate positions of all the lands  
in the Center of the Valley of the  
Mississippi the recent discoveries  
which have been made and are daily  
making bear witness to the fact  
that in the varied productions of the  
mineral and vegetable Kingdoms  
no Country can be richer Almost all  
the great Rivers discharging their waters into  
the Mississippi concentrate at or near  
our borders the Ohio, Wabash, Cumberland,  
Pennsylv, Kaskaskia, Moutouri, Illinois  
and Rock, Raisin, Rivers with many

Wm. D. Phelps  
Care of Phelps  
Carthage Ill

27