


1810

# 11: 1810 June 15: Robert R. Livingston (Clermont) to William Dunbar (Natchez)

Robert R. Livingston

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Chancellor Livingston  
Clermont

18 June 1810.

N.B. This letter was  
opened by Mr. B.  
R. Livingston as he  
informs me by note  
to examine the Wood  
Dredge

William Ingham Esq<sup>r</sup>

Paterson

Favored by  
C. Livingston Esq<sup>r</sup>

Recd R. Livingston

Clontarf Sheep Shearing 15 & 16 June 1810

From Bonnet's an imported ram gave 9 lb wool at 2<sup>h</sup> 10. 2  
Clontarf bred at Clontarf - gave 9<sup>h</sup> 10. 2  
From raised at Clontarf gave 11. 11. 2 at 2. 2 2 1/2  
Value of 3 fleeces - £ 59

200 ewes all except ewes or two having lambs.

Average of the full bred ewe fleeces . . .	5. 13.	subject 2 <sup>h</sup> 10 <sup>h</sup> 2
of the 7/8 . . . . .	5. 6.	at 1 <sup>h</sup> 50 <sup>h</sup> 10 <sup>h</sup> 20
of the 3/4 . . . . .	5. 3.	at 1 <sup>h</sup> 25 <sup>h</sup> 10 <sup>h</sup> 20
of the 1/2 bred . . . . .	5. 1.	at 75 <sup>h</sup> 10 <sup>h</sup> 20

260 common ewes were shorn average - <sup>unwashed</sup> value  $\frac{25}{100}$  £ 20

These sheep are from the celebrated flock at Farm Bonnet  
supposed to be the finest flock in Europe the average  
weights of my rams 146 lb of the ewes about 69 lb.

Stock runs <sup>at</sup> 1500 for another. The spirit of breeding  
of manufacturing the sort of these sheep is spreading  
rapidly, & I have little doubt that if the restrictions  
G.B. has unwisely imposed upon our commerce shall  
be continued one year longer, that the wool, & I believe  
cotton trade of the U.S. will be lost to her - I have sent you  
a sample of cloth made at home from my fleeces. May  
you may judge of the prospects of our manufactures. The  
price at which I have sold my wool (not less than 2000  
is, unwashed wool - fall bred 2 $\frac{1}{2}$   $\frac{1}{2}$  1 $\frac{1}{2}$   $\frac{1}{2}$  - &  
1 $\frac{1}{2}$  bred  $\frac{75}{100}$  The staple is longer & equal to those prices  
by the manufacturers, compare these prices with the quantity  
of wool, & you may form some estimate of the value of these  
sheep. I am extremely sorry that I have it not at this time  
in my power to supply you with a ram, but as I shall keep  
one four of my young rams of you should not be supplied  
before next year I will spare you one of them. I am  
Williams Don Cas Esq & Sir Yours Most Obedt Servant  
John P. Somers

Ches Mont 10<sup>th</sup> June 1810

Sir

I was yesterday favoured by yours of the 2<sup>d</sup> May. I am

extremely happy to find that a gentleman <sup>Mr. Merris</sup> whose name is so well qualified  
to extend the breed of this very useful animal, is turning his

attention to that object. I regret that I have none on hand  
of such an age as to bear the transportation. My sheep

are in such estimation that they are generally sold before  
they are dropped. On the 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> of this month I had a

public sheep shearing which was attended by about 200  
respectable farmers & gentlemen from this & the neighbouring

states. In order to confirm you in your opinion of the impor-  
tance of cultivating these sheep, send you the result. & as

this will be delivered by my brother I send you samples  
of the wool. You are probably well apprized as yet of the

price to which the Merino wools are advanced with us. I have  
my lambs, as many as I choose to send with this spring

at the following rates. full bred 100 - 15/6 - 250 - 7/6. 200  
3/4 30% - 1/2 12 1/2 % - I have refused 2500% for one  
of

25  
William Sumner, Esquire  
near Natchez  
Mississippi Territory

Mr. J. Milson  
Oct 13-1810