

Larry, attached is my best attempt at deciphering the words in the letter from Catherine Seely. I've bracketed a few words where I was still uncertain, and I've also put in italics and brackets a few words that I think she must have left out---she must have been fairly agitated when she wrote the letter, and she seems to have done it in a hurry.

I think we are missing the first page---it seems to start in the middle of a discussion of the arrangement she thought her brother had agreed to.

Although I'm still unsure of some of the words, I think there is enough there to understand the general sense. I don't think she was criticizing her husband in the letter, but instead was coming down hard on her own mother (Mrs. Huffman), who apparently had made her life miserable because she didn't approve of Seely. It seems that she perhaps had thought that they had made good on what they owed her father's estate, with the agreement of her brother, but that her mother claimed not and was trying to get them out of a house. In any event, it seems pretty sad. I wish we had that first page.

It may take me some time, but I'm going to try to put together a timeline from some of the other material you posted from the Probate records. Its interesting what was missed in that 1969 Historical Society article, such as that Seely apparently built part of the "main" canal near Dayton, and that the state had given him at least \$5,000 because of the damages he had suffered because of the state delaying so long in selling off the water power from the Mad River (which was going to be the source of the water for his canal)---although part of the reason for the delay was because the Cooper heirs had sued the state to keep the water in the feeder (because it would feed their own mills) rather than allow it to go into Seely's canal, which would bypass their mills.

You asked about where they are buried. Woodland Cemetery has an online function to search their death records, and I found both there, although there was a variant in the spelling--I've attached the printouts and a map showing the sections. Interestingly, they are not buried together--presumably because Catherine was one of the first burials at Woodland (the Huffman family at work?), but Morris' body wasn't buried there until after the Civil War--it was moved there from somewhere else.