

North Carolina Warren County  
Honoured and Dear Brother

Tho unseen yet beloved tho I am the unworthiest  
of all that is meat to be called a minister of the  
Gospel of Jesus Christ yet I am desirous to contract  
an acquaintance with all the labourers in my Lord's  
Vineyard, and as I have achance to write to my Elder  
brother I hope you will Receive it at the hands of  
brother Braine In which I inform you of the grate  
Declination of Religion in our parts which is a grief  
to the souls of the godly, but yet I look for a fare  
better day than this. I mean the latter day glory  
when all shall be taught of the Lord and grate  
Shall be the peace of his people, om my brother  
Pray for us in North Carolina that the Lord  
Would rain down Righteousness from heaven upon  
us that his poor sion moint once more travil and  
bring forth sons and daughters for god, om my brother  
I seal determined through grace to go on tho afflicted  
I bless the Lord not forsaken I yet seal in my soul  
to love Jesus om my brother stir up the brethren to  
Come and Visit us in our state, prsay my brother  
Write to me by brother Braine and you well oblige  
your affectionate tho unworthy brother In gospel  
Bonds — — — — — Thomas Gardner

February the 6<sup>th</sup> 1797

Elder Brother Bacus —