

Island Grove Feb 22 1849

Dr Sir, I hope I may be pardoned for addressing you by letter at this time, which I probably should not have done but for information rec<sup>d</sup> from Springfield, in relation to an effort being made there to retain Dillee in the post office and I understand that effort to be by whigs - such a course here is considered to be improper, and it is hoped that it will not be sanctioned by our Reps: nor by the Administration - was it true that we have not men as suitable and as well qualified to discharge the duties of the offices now in the gift of the Executive, we would not feel that we have just cause of complaint, but until that is demonstrated the whigs will not be satisfied that the efforts of the administration shall be paralyzed and their own exertions rendered abortive by the promotion, or by, retaining men in office, place and distinction, who have, and are still battling against us. I understand there is three applicants for the post office at Springfield, Berchell, Davis and Ellis, and from a long acquaintance with the men I am satisfied either would be exep<sup>l</sup>able, but I do not hesitate to express, my preference for Berchell, and in expressing my own, I speak advisedly, when I say that I express the wishes of a large and respectable portion of the friends in this county. In that appointment the Gov: will secure the services of a good officer and the party the advantages of a faithfull servant. I hope you are advised of the proceeding of the Leg: that has just adjourned, In conclusion I ask to be permitted to subscribe my self your obt Serv<sup>t</sup>

J. M. Smith