1860, 1865, 1869 Mary H. [Morris] Hussey

SIDE ONE

Germantown Philad.a
3 Month 6th 1860.

My Dear Cousin

According to my promise made some weeks since, I have learned some of the particulars of Osier raising which I hope may prove both of interest and benefit to our Cousins of West River in reclaiming from their present state some of the meadow land which abounds in that neighborhood. By my brother (who has raised the willow on his farm several years,) I am informed he considers the Welsh as the hardiest and on the whole most valuable variety for extensive cultivation – althⁿ the American Green is readily raised & liked for many purposes by the manufacturers.

In preparing for planting the ground should be well plowed and harrowed as if for corn, and if sandy might be rolled before planting. They thrive best in low but not marshy ground – a sandy loam underdrained and in tolerable condition would be preferred, but no objection would be made to occasional flooding, if the water does not lie too long a time, which is a serious injury.

When planting take a garden line & set the cuttings by it, about two feet apart – and the rows five feet; plant with cuttings from a years growth – divided into slips about nine inches long – point with a hatchet, and run in the ground to about six inches in depth.

J. Morris