Hagley, near Fredericksburg, Virginia –
31st of Aug: 1851 –

My dear Sir,

Your letter addressed to Mr R: Burgess under date of the 19th instant, desiring him, to enquire of me, how you could be supplied with about fifty bushels of wheat, which has taken my name, reached me this day, being sent to me, by Mr Burgess, while I am here on a visit to my family – And I would, with great pleasure, supply the wheat you desire, but our crop of wheat was all sent to market about ten days since – The wheat you desire is the true Mediterranean species – I obtained the first specimen of it which came to Virginia from the State Delaware, thro' the kind agency of my highly valued friend, the Hon: Doctor Naudine of that State – Of its produce, I sent the parcel of which you speak, to my old friend, the Hon: Mr Merrick – I also sent to many Farmers in Virginia specimens of it, by reason of which it assumed my name – I may, on the faith of sixty years experience, venture to affirm, that in all regions where the Hessian Fly exists; & where wheat is often injured by Rust; there is no wheat to be relied on for a succession of crops, but the Mediterranean – It defies that Fly, & is never materially injured by rust – I am, dear Sir, with sincere respect & regard, your friend,

John Taliaferro –

To –
J: Lee esq^r {
1642

Dr Jno Taliaferro
Aug. 31, 1851.
(Mediterranean Wheat)

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Care of
Mr R: Burgess
To Farmers

To –
J: Lee esq^r
Petersville –
Maryland –

WASHINGTON
27 AUG
D.C.

MdHS 1974 [1579-1642]