3-2-1857

Letter to John Butler and Eliza (Smith) Butler from Isaac Smith and Margaret Smith

Isaac Smith

Margaret Smith

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Dear Brother, Sisters and Children

April 10, 1857

Bridgetport, March 2, 1857

I have no news of importance to write about; but remember each other's welfare. It is necessary to write to each other frequently. This is the only means we have of conversing with you, a great convenience. I am much regretted to be away. To acknowledge your little invitation to do that it is got a habit to write letters. This account for me not writing oftener than I do, it is not because I have forgotten you all, for if I was to write every thing I thought of you all you would get tired of going to the Post office.

This leaves us as well as usual. My friends and connection are tolerably well, as far as I know, and all are well at your Mother's except Berryman. She is very well. She is complaining of rheumatism, but I have had very hard, disagreeable weather here at present several times. The ground was always too wet to go out for a walk or to see the country. I often think of you and want to say something more, but I must quit and write more of the season.

John and I are very well. I hope you are all well. I shall try to write to you all soon. I am much obliged to Sarah for her kind letter. I hope she is well and that all the children are well.

Yours truly,

[Signature]

Jacob Jones
I heard a man say Saturday that he had been
here 21 years and that it was the worst
winter he had seen. Stock is getting poor
though I have not seen much a dying but
there is one thing about it if there is such a
thing we are all glad to feed a month or two
I have had the worst luck of any person that
I have heard of though it was not caused by
famine. I left the nature that I got 10 acres
and a yarling colt and the last week came
that I had I think I could have sold the horse
for $35. This makes true the saying that there
that loses life
you wrote to me about sending a power
of attorney to sell all my places. I spoke to
him concerning it. He thinks we can't do anything
about it till we get the members of the
land I think he is mistaken about it though
it will do no harm to have the members
If the foregoing you is not sufficient we
will attend to it when the rest of them
_likes a power of attorney. I believe I write to
you to stop the atlas it still continues to
come I want you to settle with Mr. Smith and
there it stoped. one parcel from Mr. Smith
as much as I cannot I don't want to take any
paper that not in favor of carrying out. The
laws of our country I hope for reasonable
papers will soon come to an end. There is more
political excitement here than has been
have since we came to the country. We have to vote
next June whether we will become a state at
not I think it will carry by a large majority
and with it comes up the Stanley question. There
is a good deal of talk on the subject. I think it
will be a free state at least I hope so. The people
from Missouri are generally in favor of slavery
and the Illinois boy against, if they make
it a slave state you may listen to them. If I were
you I would have what
the farmer has to sell are generally low and grow
high. American horses are high now as we
with 35 to 40 dollars for a cow. Sheep $4.50 a
head. Pork at 13 cents. Apples is high of
any thing else 6 to 8 dollars for a bushel. It
is said that there has been over 100 thousand
dollars worth told in Oregon this winter. I hope to
have in a year or 2 to have plenty to sell and keep
but I have no hope of getting so big a price that
was sent from this country to Boston. Also
a paper there said it was the largest apple in
the world it weighed 2 pounds or so. I wonder
what remains. As to
John Smith.
Brideport March the 2d 1857

Dear Brother & Sisters

I have no news of importence to write but inorder to remember each other it is nesfary to write to each other frequently, this is the only means we have of conversing to gether, a great privelige two much neglected, I am bound to acknowledge I have so little writeing to do that it is qite a task to me to write a letter this accounts for me not writeing oftener than I do, it is not because I have forgoten you all for if I was to write every time I thought of you all you would get tired of going to the Post office.  this leaves us as well as usal the friends and connexion are tolerable well as fare as I know we was all at your Mother's except Berryman Saturday She is well she is complaining some of rheumatis we have had a very hard disagreeable winter here, it snowed several times none lay on the ground any lengh of time except one, thare was one fell the first of January that lay on near three weeks, it was not very cold it froze a little about a week of the time.

I heard a man say Saturday that he had bin heare 21 years and that it was the worst winter he had saw, stock is getting poor thoug I have not hear of much a dying, but thare is one thing about it if we have such winters we will hafto feed a mont or two, I have had the worst luck of any person that I have heard of though it was not caused by poverty, I lost the mare that I got off Norcross and a yearling colt and the best milk cow that I had I think I could have sold the mare for $500 this makes true the saying that them that has much loose.

you wrote somthing to me about sending a power of atorney to sell the old place I spoke to Ira concerning it, he thinks we cant do anything about it till we get the numbers of the land, I think he is mistaken about it, though it will do no harm to have the nombers, If the power I gave you is not sufficient we will attend to it when the rest of them makes a power of atorney. I believe I wrote to you to stop the atlas it still continues to come, I want you to settle with Smith and have it stoped, one paper from Monmouth is as much as I want I dont want to take any paper that
aren't in favor of carrying out the laws of our country. I hope such treasonable papers will soon come to an end, there is more political excitement here than has been heard since we came to the country. We have to vote next June whether we will become a state or not. I think it will carry by a large majority, and with it comes up the slavery question. There is a good deal of talk on the subject. I think it will be a free state, at least I hope so, the people from Missouri are generally in favor of slavery, and the Illinois boy against, if they make it a slave state you may listen to here of me leaving. Times are rather dull here what the farmer has to sell are generally low, and groceries high. American horses are high, cows are worth $35 & $40 dollars, beef 4 cents, sheep $4 & $5 a head, pork 6 cents, bacon 13 cents. Apples is highest of anything else, 8 to 10 dollars per bushel. It is said that there has been over 70 thousand dollars worth sold in Oregon this winter. I hope to have in a year or two to have plenty to sell and keep but I have no hopes of getting so big a price. There was one sent from this country to Boston Mass. A paper there said it was the largest apple in the world. It weighed 2 pounds 5 1/2 ounces. I must close for the want of room.

 Remain your Brother

Isaac Smith

Post Script

Dear Brother Sisters and children, I now seat myself to write a few lines to you. I am truly sorry to think you have all forgot us in such a short time. You may think I have forgot you but it is not the case, if you knew what a poor chance I have you would excuse me. I have so many children to work with and such bad health I cannot write often.

I have no news to write for I have been at home for five months until last Saturday. We went to see Mother. She was complaining with her shoulder and hip being quite lame. She has pieced a very nice quilt this winter and knit a number of nice stockings. She seems some better reconciled. She says she won't see you all very much you must write to her often. Write about all the folks that we were acquainted with. The children have all grown a great deal they want to see you all very much. Flora is getting to be quite a help. She had a hard time this winter. She and Berri have to do the most of the washing yet.

Tilda I would like to know what you are about that you cannot write if you and John don't write to us oftener. I don't intend to name any more children for you. Little Tilda and John are very promising children. John is three months old and weighs seventeen pounds. He and him appears to be perfectly healthy. Give my love to James and Mary. Tell them they must not think hard of me for not writing to them. I often think of them and want to see them very much. Don't forget to write John is a crying so I must quit and take him so good by.

Margaret B S

Post Script

Tell Rachel Dewwese to write me a long letter.