12-8-1856

Letter to Matilda Smith from Rufus Smith and Isaac Smith

Rufus Smith

Isaac Smith

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Bridgeport, December 8th, 1856

Dear Aunt,

I now take my pen to write you a few lines, to let you know that we are all well. All the rest of the kind folks were well. The last I knew of them I and Wright are going to school at Monmouth, we heard at spring Whitemares, they live about half a mile from the school house. There is hardly schoolers come to school and some that wants to come but that don't know they have got Martin Butler he is a constant teacher. We have a spelling school there every Thursday night and a debate every Sunday night. The teacher is going to teach a writing school and have two lessons a week. Charles Fisher is going to teach a singing school. He will have one next Saturday evening. He teaches for fifty dollars per scholar.

Monmouth belongs to the firm of two of them is stores and the other four is dwelling houses. I went you to write to me please I have not got a letter from you for a long time. I wish you was here to see the little baby he is a pretty little fellow. He is two weeks old by this time. Good By.

Rufus M. Smith.
Dear Cousin,

I trust I will have to write you a few lines but I doubt that. I ought to say I have not got a letter from you for about a year. I forgot to tell Matilda how much the baby weighed ten pounds. He is a pretty little fellow. He talked at Mother to dry. Mother is going to send a little book of the kind. I forgot to tell you what his name was it is John Butter Smith. I want you to write me a letter as soon as you can.

Your affectionate Cousin

P.S.

Dear Brother & Sister,

I write you a few lines in response to a letter that we have not received. We have received a letter about a month ago from Matilda with news of John that possess to write to us some, we have not received anything yet, we have searched. Thus far reporting to receive said letter we have not received it yet. I was glad to hear you were all well and doing well. The climate is all well and we have no means to write to you.

Sincerely,

Cousin

P.S.

From the news we get from State elections I am in hopes they will be defeated. I expect to hear the truth of it next week. I am sorry to hear that many of my old neighbors have fallen back on a Lincoln's party. Your news good and hear last season I wish you all the best of luck in your business.
Bridge-port December 8th 1856

Dear. Aunt

I now take my pen, to write you a few lines, to let you know that we are all well. all the rest of the kind folks was well the last I knew of them. I and Wright are going to school at Monmouth; we board at Squire Whitman's, they live about half a mile from the school house. There is seventy scholars come to school and more, that wants to come but there is not room. they have got Newton Butler for an assistant teacher. we have a spelling school there every Thursday night, and a debate Monday night. the teacher is going to teach a writing school and have two lesson a week. Albert Lucas is going to teach a singing school. he will have one next Saturday evening. he teaches for forty dollars for thirteen lesson's. Monmouth has got six houses in it two of them is stores and the other four is dwelling houses. I want you to write to me oftener I have not got a letter from you for a long time. I wish you was here to see the little baby his is a pretty little fellow. he is three weeks old day after tomorrow so no more this time. Good By.

Rufus. M. Smith

Dear Cousin

I guess I will have to write you a few lines but I dont think that I ought to for I have not got a letter from you for about a year. I forgot to tell Aunt Matilda how much the baby weighed it ten pounds he is a pretty little fellow. he laughed at mother to day. Mother is going to send a little lock of his hair. I forgot to tell what his name was it is John Butler Smith. I want you to write me a letter as soon as you can.

Your Affectionate Cousin

R.S.
Addendum to December 8, 1856 letter by Rufus M. Smith

Dear Brother & Sisters,

I write you a few lines in Rufus' letter to let you know that we have not forgotten you we received a letter about a month ago from Matilda with some in it from John that [prosist?] to write to us soon. We have not received anything yet. We have waited thus far expecting to receive said letter, we have not received it yet. I was glad to hear you was all well and doing well. We have waited thus far expecting to receive said letter, we have not received it yet. This leaves us all well as usual. We have no news to write to you except that we have another black headed boy at our house, it will be three weeks old day after tomorrow. It is a very harty lookin child we have named him John Butler I guess now we will get our pay back. Our relations are well as far as I know except Elijah he is complaining some with his old complaint he was mending some the last I heard from him your Mother is as harty as common she stayed with us nearly two weeks when the baby was born she appears quite lonesome since your Father's death you all [?] to write to here often we have had a favorable fall here not rain enough to raise the waters much till last night and to day. Our Indian war that has been among us so long I think is about through with Oregon need the pay for carrying on this war, if the black republicans gains the sway we don't expect to get it but from the news we get from State elections I am in hopes they will be defeated we expect to hear the truth of it [neet?] week I am sorry to hear that some of my old neighbors has fell in with such a lawless party. Crops was good here last season I raised 233 bushels of wheat a yield of about 20 bushels to the acre (some of the neighbors raised 37) and about 500 bushels of oats I had 1 1/2 acre thrashed when I thrashed my wheat it turned off 93 bushels this won't correspond with what George Dewees rote.

Time here are about as they have been for the last two years Farmers don't get such prices as they use to but a party fare price for everything except wheat I will give you the prices of some things so you can judge beef 4 1/2 per pound pork 5 cows about 40 dollars per head Sheep 4 to 5 American Horses 150 to 250 I could sell the mare that I got from Greg for 300 dollars. Wheat 80 cts per bushel oats 37[1/2?] no corn in market potatoes 50 grocers is high sugar 12 to 15 cents per pound coffee 16 to 20 salt 4, dry goods are about as cheap as they was in Monmouth when we left it is getting dark I shall have to close write soon and often.

Your brother until death

Isaac Smith

NB if you have Father's age and the date of his death send it to us we have all the rest

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