8-17-1853

Letter to Brother and Sisters from Isaac Smith and Margret Smith

Isaac Smith

Margaret Smith

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Mississippi August 17th, 1843

Dear Brother & Sisters,

I very briefly write you a few lines to let you know that we are all as well as usual at present. I have never been more happy and have you safe enjoying the same feeling. The mountains look very poor when we arrived here. I think it was caused by a fall of snow which has been more than usual. I hope there is nothing wrong for us to use in the same length of time we have had no sickness at all. We have been very happy and we will keep on and get here with 48. We had 70 head of horses & cattle and got here with 69. We started with 26. We started with 16 wagons and got here with 14. Edward Grundy had one to break down. One more stock & one cow burned in the streets never heard your father had one burned at the same time. Your sister & mother stood the trip we will consider this start that they had to do in the road. Young folks used to walk on the old wagon and nothing that changed.

I have not had any letters from home to write you yet. I wanted to like to go all out but will have to let you know as well as present. Please write soon.

With affectionate love,

[Signature]
The grass was generally good. It was near our
smallest water and snake river, in the black hills
and on both rivers in the Blue Mountains. I never
saw any thing to equal it on either side of a field or
a way. The face part of our trip it was very
wet and cool it rained every day or two.
Three weeks we had a good deal of mud and high
water we lost a great deal of time passing our
building bridges. I believe you will come to the
conclusion that we have seen a hard time of it,
but this is not the case the men folks saw
a very easy time of it and I would not live
hard or known in good health. I saw a
much easier time of it than if I had been
at home. It is better and generally believed
in Illinois. A company went and came through
a green with our settlers by separating our
company can unite in saying that that is false
people can do right on the plains as any
where else we all stay to get the whole
plains and practice is good work as we
were when we started your letter hatchett
sawl is at Elizabethe Ira & myself at
Tater I place it a hank and
mound on to it it has a calm on it and
garden like wood and stock water it last
now here and the middle miles from rail timber
we give 600 dollars our relations and our
moutness are all well & living well.
Polk County August the 17th 1853

Dear Brother & sisters

I with plasure write you a few lines to let you know that we are all as well as usal at prsant I hope these lines will reach you safe injoying the same blfsing Margarets health was very poor when we arrived here I think it was cused by fateage She is gaining at this time. We have had no sicknefs since we left home except the children had the measels & I had the mountain fever it all went very light, in fact I have used lefs medasin since i left than is usial for me to use in the same length of time. We have had no sicknefs that was serious since we left old Warren we have abundant cause to feel thankful for our good health and prsperaus jurney. We started with 47 persons in all and got here with 48 We had 72 head of horses & mules and got here with 69 We started with 16 wagons and got here with 15 Edward Grounds had one to brake down, one mare stole & one drownded in Deshoots river your father had one drownded at the same time.

Your father & mother stood the trip ver well considering the work thatf thay had to do on the road, young folks use to wait on the old women, but times has changed. We arrived at the first farm in Oregon 5th August

Your mares go qite poor before we got here thay are not so poor as mares generaly get that croses the plains so thay say here. Our muls stood the trip very well mine is all in good order except the 3 year old that I got from you & the horse that I got from Van Horn The mule that had the swiney got well the Norcrosf mare is better I worked here some on the last end of the trip the Greg mare stood the trip the best of any I had. my two large wagons stodd the trip well I have sold the one that Henry made for $150 the one that I got from Dedman was a poor concern??? I broke one axel [??] at Kainsvllie & the other in the Cascade Mountains. Thay wasant half [??] & made out of brash[??] roten shugartree.
I took some notes of our trip intending to give you some particulars of our trip but I lost them before I reached here so I shall have content myself by saying that the road was better than I expected the greater portion of the road is as good as could be desired though there is some deep mud and sand some high rocky hills & some rough level road but all this constituted a small portion of the road with good wagons & teams and a careful driver there is no kind of danger till you get to the cascade there it takes care & patience a good resolution full belly & strong back

the graves was generally good it was scarce on sweet water & snake river, in the black hills and on [Rare] river in the Blue Mountains I never saw anything to equal it inside of a field or out. The fare part of our trip it was very wet and cool it rained every day at one time for three weeks. We had a great deal of time firing and building bridges. I suppose you will come to the conclusion that we have had a hard time of it but this is not the case the men folks saw a very easy time of it and it would not bin hard on women in good health. I saw a much easier time of it than if I had been at home. Its reported and generally believed in Illinois that a company can't come through to Oregon without falling out & seperating our company can unite in saying that that is false people can do right on the plains as well as anywhere else we all stayed together the whole trip and partite as good friend as we were when we started. Your father Hutchinsinson Ed is at Elizahes Ira & myself is at Carter T George has bought him a claim and moved on to it it has a cabin on it and garden fire wood and stock water it first rate land and 31/2 miles from rail timber he give 600 dollars our relations and acquaintances are all well & doing well all that I have saw except Mason A Lucas and Franky Murphy appears to be satisfied than they was it a common thing as fare as I have inquired for them that had good luck in getting here and in getting a good claim to be well satisfied those that had hard luck and had to take [hopsons] choice for a claim are generally dissatisfied the latter is the smallest number our company likes as well as they expected as fare as they have saw. I have not saw enough of the country to give you a description of it suffice it to say at present that there is good land good timber & good water the land is better than I expected stock water is not as plenty as I expected everything looks flourishing her corn and some of that looks pretty well Apples trees beats anything I have saw Some bareing at three year old. When I look at the country and get a claim I write again. If the Monmouth Democrat has stoped send me the Atlas. Send it Independence Polk County OT I have not had any letters from any of you yet write often I would like to see you all but will have to bid you are well at present

Isaac & Margret Smith