8-6-1854

Letter to John Butler, Eliza (Smith) Butler and Matilda Smith from Isaac Smith

Isaac Smith

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There was one of the best grind mills started in our neighborhood last week that I ever saw. The report is that they are making 47 pounds of flour to the bushel. I don't believe it. They may make as much as any mill in any country we have plenty saw will hardly tell. The children that I would like to see the very much I could tell them a good many fish stories, my love to you all is my respects to all of the old neighbors. I won't write any more often it to dark to write any more.

Your affectionate brother

Isaac Smith

Bridgeport 6 7 August 6 1874

Dear Brother & Sister,

I take this opportunity of writing you a few lines to let you know that things are all well at this time. I trust you will find you all enjoying the same like healing the conversion as all well as ever as I know I saw your Father & Mother today at meeting house & was the preacher. May God look softly & well. I have no money to write you at this time, we had a very cool backward spring, there has been a good deal of complaining of colds & some with long fever. One of the neighbors women died with that disease. There has been no complaint amongst the conversion that I know of. I want you to send me a receipt for making that cough syrup that Mrs. P. Smith got of Smith Wallace. We have had beautiful weather here for a while. Harvest is almost done. Wheat generally was first rate some late rain might hamper with the freeze last winter, rain amongst the rest.

I thought wanted to know how often I had wished at my self back in answer I could say that I cannot have for health as long as we can have at good health as we have had. I try to be thankful and content. This is a poor
place. To raise children on the account that people take such little interest in school if it were given me a self-taught, it could be the account that I like the country but the society I am not very well pleased with. Thanks I have hope that it will improve—I set out an orchard of grafted fruit last spring it is growing as fine as I ever saw. I have hopes that I will have fruit plenty in two or three years. They have younger more than in Illinois. I was sorry to learn that fruit was killed in your neighborhood—you misunderstood me. I don’t think you intend to sell my ground what I wanted you to do was to hire some person to grow that east (and so that it would not grow in weeds, as I supposed that was the reason that it wouldn’t rent). I wrote to you not to sell it until I had some notion of leasing my farm for shocking was, first, I do not particular need the money. Secondly, property is rising faster than here in Oregon. Thirdly, unimprovement sell high in proportion than improved. Therefore, if you can get some person that is trustworthy to put some sheep buildings and a small orchard on it, for what it is worth, and take the rent of the place for two or three years. I am sure that you are wise in your own judgment and I will be satisfied.

Living is hard here. Money very scarce property is about one third lower than it was a year ago. Some bottled water is worth about 20 dollars each. Beef 7 cents per pound. Cheese it is 25 cents a pound. Bacon 25 cents per pound. Pork 25 cents per pound. Butter 20 cents per pound. Chickens 6 dollars per dozen. Salt 1 is worth 1 dollars per bushel. Sugar 12 cents pound. Coffee 30 cents. Alaskans from 60 to 71 cents. LEGO of net made clothing are a bait as cheap as in this month. I still have your fare money yet. There are in good order yet I have fine of my money yet I would like to sell them. There is plenty that wants them but I cannot find any person that has the money. I saw a book advertised in the atlas called the western fruit. I read such a book if you can get it for me with out to much trouble I send it to me by mail it is at Portland Rockland. We have a new post office in one mile of me they will be a great accommodation to me. I live a half a dozen miles from Independent, and it is a good card of freedom for me to get anything from there. I want you to direct your letters to the said office (Bridge Post Folk County Oregon). Tell the rest that wants me to do the same I also want you to have the atlas directed to me Mark.
Bridgeport OT August 6th 1854

Dear Brother & Sisters

I take this opportunity of writing you a few lines to let you know that we are all well at this time. I hope those lines will find you all enjoying the same like blissings, the connexion is all well as fair as I know I saw your Father & Mother to-day at meeting John E. was the Preacher there both look harty & well, I have no news to write you at this time, we had a very cool backward spring here, there has been a good deal of complaining of bad colds & some with lung fever one of our neighbor women dyed with that disease, there has been no complaint amongst the connexion that I know of I want you to send me a seat for making that cough surup that Wm F. Smith got of Smith Wallace, we have had beautiful weather here for a while harvest is about done wheat generally was first rate some late wheat was injured with the freeze last winter, mine amongst the rest.

Matilda wanted to know how often I had wished myself back in answer I will say that I came here for health & as long as we can have as good health as we have had I try to be thankful and contented. This is a poor place to raise children on the account that people take such little interest in school if I ever wish myself back it will be on this account I like the country but the society I am not very well pleased with though I have hopes that it will improve. I let out an orchard of grafted fruit last spring it is growing as fine as any I ever saw I have hopes that I will have fruit plenty in two or three years trees bare younger here than in Illinois I was sorry to hear that fruit was killed in your neighborhood. You misunderstood me about hiring some person to tend my ground what I wanted you to do was to hire some person to plow that wet land so that it would not grow up in weeds & grass again, I supposed that was the reason that it would not rent. I wrote to you not to sell that I had some notion of leasing my reason for so doing was first I do not particular need the money secondly property is rising faster here than here in Oregon, thirdly improved places sell higher in proportion than unimproved, therefore if you can get some person that is trusty, to put some cheap buildings and a small orchard on it, for what it is worth, and take the
rent of the place for pay you may set him to work reserving to your self the right to pay him at any time for his labor provided I should wan to sell it before the lease runs out, trust your own judgement & I will be satisfied. times is hard heare & money verry scarce property is about one third lower than it was a year ago, cows & calvs is worth about 50 dollars each beef 7 cts per pound, sheep 10 dollars a head bacon 25 cts per pound chickens 6 dollars per dozen, salt is worth 3 dollars per busel sugar 10 cts pound coffee 20 cts molasses from 60 to $1.25, dry goods & redy made clothing are about as cheap as in Monmouth, I still have my fore mares yet thare are in good order, I have five of my mules yet I wold like to sell them, thare is plenty that wants them but I cannot find any person that has the money.

I saw a book advertised in the atlas called the western fruit book I kneed such a book if you can get it for me with out to much trouble send it to me by mail it is at Porters Rockiland, we have a new post office in one mile of me this will be a great accomodation to me I live about a leven miles from Independence and it is a good eal of trouble for me to get anything from thare I want you to direct your letters to the said office, (Bridgeport Polk County Oregon) tell the rest that writes to me to do the same I also want you to have the atlas directed to me thare thare was one of the best griss mills started in our neighborhood last weeke that I ever saw the report is that thay are making 47 pounds of flower to the bushel I dont believe it thoug I suppose thay can make as much as any mill in any country we have plenty saw mill handy.

till the children that that I wold like to see them very much I could tell them a good many fittish storyes my love to you all & my respects to all of the old neighbors no mor at presant write often it to dark to write any more

your affetionate brother

Isaac Smith

May the 7

I like to have forgot to tell you about Berymans misfortune about 9 weeks ago he was taken with a pain in his leg just below the knee in a fiew days it comenced sweeling and sweeled to his body it pained him a gret deal he fell of till he was nothing but skin & bone I imploid a doctor his medisin gave him some releif it has not paind him any of conseqence for about 5 weeks thare was small places rased up on it like biles I have lanced two of them & I think thare is one more that will have to be opened he can walk round some