4-27-1853

Letter to Brothers and Sisters from Isaac Smith

Isaac Smith

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Edward didn’t get up till noon on the 25th. We then started for the Ferry five miles across the bottom. It took us till midnight nearly every wagon missing down here. We got through we had to double team to get through the mud here we all got through about dark except for a John Stagg. It got so dark that they had to camp on the bottom we expected to cross the morning early but while waiting they was a large drove of cattle came up we shackle how to wait for them. To cross it will take till about noon. The boat that is running here is a large freight river boat called the Patrick. Many it charters as a train. The river here is about a mile wide and runs as swift as a mile and a half an hour. The & Davis had come up we will cross to day.

We got across about noon safe we are going right on. We have 2 wagons in company to men from Michigan and three teams Paris and one team.

I forgot to tell you that Edwards children had the Measels. They are not bad.

J.F.

Henry jumped away Monday, April 27, 1855

Dear brother & sisters,

I write you a few lines to let you know that we are all well at present. In hopes these few lines will reach you all in the enjoyment of the same. On our arrival we were waiting for the Grand to come up with us as we started from there yesterday (20) to go to the Ferry to cross and Edward while of his wagon added to here. The calculation is to cross two or three (two or three) times have had about two weeks of rainy but cool weather and is very bad with standing three feet in some places. The hard part is very back and no grass of any consequence. Not with standing all this they have been here crossing the river with six teams over a week. I think these teams will be a blessing to save us in our wagon eight or ten days bad. I think by that time there will be some grass. We was three weeks getting to Kansas will be large by two days and lost about two on account of high water but met with no accident more than that I broke one tong out of my wagon, you father broke one.
During the war, I broke an ax while out of my tin all wagon, but did not get it until till I got to Rainier — the most of our teams had stood the trip very well another of the smaller that I got from Lewis is done. I think it had not raining something outside the same that I got from Missouri. I don’t find out what it is I think the will be no more good your little rank stands it last rate.

I had W. K. McG. Rainier. I had all in the neighborhood must take off starting town. There is a great crowd of insurgents here, but they say not half as many as there was last spring. They were after building I have not heard of my little or small out. I could have got all of us that were in Rainier were as usual in Monmouth.

The boat that was bringing provisions up from 1st hand about fifty miles below no times last fight and boat to total left 1/4 miles. We had to buy our not put that were lack in this for 200 dollars to 500 or hundreds for 1000 or 500 dollars for sugar, refined for our part. I would like to tell you good. We had a hunt on moose and over town through next boat not the town support it to say that the great kaibab and mules is the oldest and the incident and the most of the country and mostly being that I live now in third of the most of the most small is a fine country. It is sunny dry and

well wanting I saw some situations I liked better than any in old Missouri. The distance is very broken all most no timber some good land on the other. The bottom here the river is very low and flat. The back water is nearly all over from the Missouri is unusually right.

Rainier is situated about two miles from the town in the bosoms of high bluffs of the river and about the 6 of Monmouth. They gamble get drunk hence and then all fellow. The closest kind there is about ten dry goods stores and grocery and saloon in unmanageable lake ships. There are three stone masonry maker sets which plenty but enough of this —

I have found out that there is a great deal to do on the road to origin so much that I am not time to think much about friends and kind folk of last column. I do think it makes me feel very sorry for the distance and danger between us may cut of that which I so much this little life time and patience will bring round the time that we can see each other again we left as a cadet with Brother B. Rogers for sale if they sell it get the pay of May —

It is true I do not try to sell it again.

I want you to send me the Missouri Democrat send it to Independence. I don’t forget to write no more at present. I remain your affectionate brother until that Isaac Smith
April 27th 1853
Winter quarters, Iowa

Dear brother & sisters,

I write you a few lines to let you know that we are all well at present in the enjoyment of the same blessing. We are ten miles above Kainsville waiting for Edward Ground to come up with us. We started from there yesterday (26) to go to the ferry to cross and Ed broke one wheel of his wagon all to pieces. The calculation is to cross tomorrow (the 28) if we have not had about two weeks of very wet cool weather, roads are very bad and streams high. We expect to have a very difficult time to travel for some time, the spring here is very backward. No grass of any consequence, notwithstanding all this, they have been crossing the river with ox teams over a week. I think these teams will be able to suffer. We have in our wagons eight or ten days' feed. I think by that time there will be some grass. We were three weeks getting to Kainsville. We lay by two days and lost about three on the account of high water. We met with no accident more than that Ed broke one tong out of his wagon, your father broke one king bolt, Ira turned over and some things a little. I broke an axeltree out of my small wagon but did not get it mended till I got to Kainsville. The most of our teams has stood the trip very well. One of the mules that I got from Lewis is lame. I think it has the swiney. Something ails the mare that I got from Norcross. I can't find out what it is. I don't think she will do me much good. Your little mule stands it first rate. P Haley, W Haley, Roundtree, Leaper, & Abett are in the neighborhood and talk of starting soon. There is a great crowd of Emigrouts here but they say not half as many as there was last spring. They all appear healthy. I have not heard of any Cholra or small pox. We cold have got all of our outfit at Kainsville as cheap as in Monmouth. The boat that was bringing our provisions up from St Louis sunk about fifty miles below. No lives lost. Freight and boat total loss. Consequently we had to buy our outfit that we lacked. I paid for flour $3.00 for crackers $7 per hundred for coffee 10 cts per pound for sugar refined 7 cts bacon 10 cts. I would like to tell you a good tale about Ioway and our travels through, but have not the time. Suffice it to say that the first hundred miles is the flattest and the muddest and the most frog ponds and nasty slews that I ever.
saw or herd of the most of the next hund is fine country it is verry dry and well watered I saw some situations I liked better than any in old Warren the balance is very broken all most no timber some good land on the riges the botems here on the river is verry low and flat the back watter is nearly all over them the Misourie is unusually high.

Kainsville is situated about two mils from the river in the hollows of high bluffs of the river and about the sis of Monmouth thay gamble get drunk sware and shve a fellow the closest kind thare is about ten dry good stores and grocery and saloons inumerable bake shops taverns Black Smiths, wagon makers, silver smiths Plenty but enough of this.

I have found out that thare is a gret deal to do on the road to origon so much that I have not time to think much about friends and kins folks but when I do think it makes me feel very serious, for the distance and dangers between us may cut of that which I so much desire but I hope time and patience will bring round the time that we can see each othe again we left a carpet with Butler & Rogers for sale if thay sell it get the pay if thay do not try to sell it your self I want you to send me the Monmouth Democrat send it to Independence O.T.

dont forget to write no more at presant

I reman your affectionate brother until deat,

Isaac Smith