1-15-1860

Letter to John Butler and Matilda Smith from Isaac Smith and Margaret Smith

Isaac Smith
Margaret Smith

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I forgot to tell you about our winter the forecast was fair and frosty it moved the grass considerably. The weather was cool and rainy it was a warm and pleasant
stock square has remained level without
feeling if the continues favorable I want to con-
mund swimming this week.
I have marked out the size of some of my winter
apples they are about a medium size I have
a part seventy varieties but the first examples of
the size and gives you that have large they
grow better. B. S.

broadfoot January the 15th 1840
Dear Brother or Sister
I take this opportunity of
writing you a few lines by the way
of remembrance it is not six years since
I saw you it seems as though some had
a few days ago. My affections towards you
is as strong as it ever was and my desire
to correspond is a constant one. I have hope
that circumstances will be favor us that
we may be each other again but if it
does not we are not to neglect to write
to each other as often as convenient.
I must acknowledge that I have been careless
but the main reason is that I feel as though
I had nothing of importance to write it
has been so long since I received a letter
from you that I have forgotten its con-
tents farther than you need all an usual
health which gives us much satisfaction.
This leaves us as well as at the little child-
ren has had a lot of colds but some
not about once as Ralfs & Hugh is going
to school to communicate Ralfs bounds
with his Aunt Sarah. Write with your
other hand, I think they have
a good school. The winter was as good
as I know are well except J.H. Hutchinson he has
had a very hard time of the Skiplight fever
he is now in the hospital from which he was
sent back she looks very sick I would tend to the clerk office for
Hutchinson since his looks so sick it looks to
be in better health than I ever saw him
M. Butler rented this place and moved to
Monmouth and went in partnership with
a man by the name of Brown to sell goods they
bought a house at cost in partnership. The
party that took it has gambled off the money
that he got for the house, if it was so Brown will
be very near broke of him in hopes that it
is not as bad as reported.
But Jimmy Rogers was at my house not long
ago I think the horse he is going to
sell will run through this property he says
him and his family don't agree very well
there appears to be 3 days of trouble.
There was a strange occurrence in our
neighborhood last week, a man by the name of
Cope that a man by the name of Keeper
he shot him in the night through the window
as he sat by the fire from the place where
the ball entered and came out it must
have passed through his heart he died instanly. They have got him (Cope) in custody
and sufficient proof to hang him there existed
These seems for the bloody deed first him & Har
ten had again the day I hear second Kyle (Moff)
and him being to involve Harpers wife to run
off with him. Third he was drunk.
This is the first murder that has happened
since we have been here in this county
I hope it is the last
There is a great complaint here about hard
times money is scarcer here now than it
has been since I have been in the county
This is the main cause of hard times when
property sells at all it generally sells at
a price one half is worth 5 to 10 per pound
300 dollars per ton good gold dusting
is $200 and some times more. I don't
get down to this what they would do for forty bushels at 15 and 20 and some for
Jeff we kept plenty to do us I wish you
could be here and such as to eat some I
think you would give us so that we could eat
you having apples at any rate they are good
and we mistake this reminds me that I have
not eat any since I commenced writing.
So get hungry write soon your obligations
brother and sister John and Sister
Nathaniel Smith

Isaac H. Margaret Smith
Bridgeport January the 15th 1860

Dear Brother & Sister

I take this opportunity of writing you a few lines by the way of rememberence, it is over six years since I saw you it seems as though it was but a few days ago, my affections towards you is as strong as it ever was and my desires to see you is as frequent as ever I have hopes that circumstances will so favor us that we will see each other again but if it does not we ought not to neglect to write to each other as often as convenient I must acknowledge that I have been careless but the main reason is that I feel as though I had nothing of importance to write, it has been so long since I received a letter from you that I have forgotten its contents farther than you was all usual health which gave me much satisfaction this leaves us as well as usual the little children has had a very bad colds but have got about over it Rufus & Wright is going to school to Monmouth Rufus boards with his Aunt Sarah, write with Calvin Murphy they think they have a good school, the connexion are as fair as I know are well except T H Hutchinson he has had a very hard spell of the Typhoid fever he is now on the mend Granmother stayed there the most of the time he was sick she looks quite harty & well, Ira tends to the clerks office for Hutchinson since he has bin sick he looks to be in better health than I ever saw him.

Issac Butler rented his place and moved to Monmouth and went in partnership with a man by the name of Boon has gambled of the money that he got for the cattle, if it is so Isaac will be very near broke up I am in hopes that it is not as bad as reported.

Old Jimmy Hogeings was at my house not long ago I think from what he says he has pirty well run through with his property he says him and his family dont agree very well he appeared to be in a good eal of trouble.
there was a serious occurrence happened in our neighborhood last week, a man by the name of Mop shot a man by the name of Harper. He shot him in the night through the window as he sat by the fire, from the place where the ball entered and came out it must have passed through his heart. He died instantly. They have got him (Mop) in custody and sufficient proof to hang him. There exists three reasons for the bloody deed: First, him & Harper had a quarrel the day before; second, he (Mop) had been诱导 Harpers wife to run off with him; third, he was drunk. This is the first murder that has happened since we have been here in this county, and I hope it is the last.

There is a great complaint here about hard times. Money is scarcer here now than it has been since I have been in the country. This is the main cause of hard times. When a fair price of beef is worth 5 cents per pound, pork 6 cents, wheat $1.00 per bushel, oats 75 cents, sheep 5 dollars per head, good goldings is $200 and sometimes more, apples have got down quite to what they used to be. I sold forty bushels at $2.50 and I sold some for less. We kept plenty to do us. I wish you could be here and help us to eat some. I think you would give up that we could beat you raising apples. At any rate, they are good and no mistake. This reminds me that I have not eaten any since I commenced writing. I am quite hungry. Write soon.

Your affectionate Brother and Sister

Issac & Margaret Smith

John M. Butler
Matilda Smith

I forgot to tell you about our winter. The forepart was cold and frosty; it injured the grapes considerably. The weather now and lately is warm and pleasant. Stock so fair has wintered well without feeding, if the weather continues favorable. I want to commence plowing this week.

I have marked out the size of some of my winter apples. These are about a medium size. I have about forty varieties, but the five samples the size will give you an idea of how large they grow here.