12-29-1861

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

Isaac Smith
Margaret Smith

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Dear Sister,

Time does not make me forget that I have sent one sister to a distant land and that death has deprived us of all our near relations and circumstances has altered us most for always. I hope not misunderstanding me have great consolation that is all we can write to each other and learn how much getting along this leaves us all well. The three oldest boys is going to school at Monmouth. They are all at home now a Christmas. They have received to be yes large bags. I find them that as large as the mother the rest of the coal in 100 per and hearty warming room on the warm room will make us think that the snow made us all as good. I send it now that comes here as a week ago. It feels as in the night we had many more rain. And the weather has been very nice to the winter. The well-mannered has been two legs to the dear. The ever known she writes from the land. It does great deal of dangers. Some a child of oil dollars.---[Incomplete text]
Dear brother,

I have been expecting to get a letter from you for a long time. I have requested my sister to send me a letter so that you may be informed about my health. The weather here is quite cold, and we are all well. The potatoes are all fine as far as I know. I send you my kindest regards and hopes that you are doing well.

The news from home was entirely satisfactory, and I am glad to hear that you are all well. The mill is working well, and the prices are steady. I hope you will find this letter satisfactory. I shall write you soon.

Elder M. Smith

Dear brother,

I have been expecting to get a letter from you for a long time. I have requested my sister to send me a letter so that you may be informed about my health. The weather here is quite cold, and we are all well. The potatoes are all fine as far as I know. I send you my kindest regards and hopes that you are doing well.

The news from home was entirely satisfactory, and I am glad to hear that you are all well. The mill is working well, and the prices are steady. I hope you will find this letter satisfactory. I shall write you soon.

Elder M. Smith
Bridgeport Polk Co December the 29th, 1861

Dear Sister

Time dose not make me forget that I have but one sister in a distant land and that death has deprived us of all our near relations and circumstances has seperated us maybe for always I hope notwithstanding we have a great consolation that is we can write to each other and learn how we are getting along. The three oldest boy is going to school at Monmouth they are all at home now a taking Christmas they have grown up to be quite large boys Flora A is about as large as her mother the rest of the children is fat and hearty running round the Home. The snow will make you think that we have winter here as well as in Illinois. It snowed about 3 inches deep a week ago it freeses in the night and thaws in day time we have had a great deal more rain here this winter than usual the Willamette has been ten feet higher than ever known by white man it done a great deal of damage. Some say a million of dollar woldent [won't] make up the loss the greatest damage was done to towns on the river some was entirely swep away a good many farms buildings and stock was washed off and stock drowned they was some lives lost not a great many that we have heard of a great many had hare bredth escapes some staid is tree tops a day and knight and a raining all the time thare suffering must have bin great thare is a great many entirely desitute thay will have to depend on their neighbors for help. I think you had better take a notion to come and see us it is no trick to cross the plains in good company we have plenty to ware and eat and apples with out end besides I think you could injoy your self. I must come to a close and write some to John You must write soon

your Brother & Sister unto death

Isaac & Margaret Smith

[Continuation of letter]
Dear Brother

I have bin expecting to get a letter from you for a long time but I am disapointed I am so carless I must not complain this leaves us all well The Connencion are all well as fair as I know except Alexander davidson he has bin sick about a year he is able to be about part of the time the complaint the Doctors say is the gravel he suffers a great deal. Your mother was well the last I heard from her she has not bin here for about two months she looked well and hearty and seemed in good spirits she complais about you all not writing to here oftener. you requested me to see all of the heirs and see if thay was willing to release William for one years rent on the old place it was some time before I could see them all or I should have wrote sooner thay all say thay will sign a release if it can be don legal Ira thinks it would be difficult to arrange it for Elijah and Thomas Hutchinsons heirs if you feel justified in releaseing him on such terms send me a form that will suit you and I will try to get them all to sign it.

times is rather hard here at this time money is scarce most every thing that the farmer has to sell is low there is a better prospect at this time in consequence of new gold discoveries east of the cascades mountains. wheat has raised from 50 cts per bushel to one dollar and there is a great demand for pack horses if every body goes that talks of going thare will not be many men left there is a excitement here that is ever painful to talk about I mean the rebellion going on agaist the best goverment that the sun ever shined on a large majority of the people of Oregon are for the Union but thare is a class of men here that stiles them selves peace democrats that are opposed to the war and always talking about its unconstitutionality and say the people of the south cant be conqered such stuff is all moonshine and proceeds from a traitors heart, if we have a goverment at all (which I believe we have) it is able to put down all internel strifes and rebellions let them come from North or South if it cant lets change our form of goverment to one that can. I think it is high time for all union men to thrw away party policticks and put thare sholder to the government wheel as one man and never stop rolling it on till the stars and stripes waves over evry foot of soil within these United States and Terrortorys and say like old Hickry the Union must and shall be preserved. thy are triing to rais rigement of soldiers in Oregon I am afrid thy will be botherd in consequence of so many being at the mines and going I had made up mi mind to stop the Monmouth Review on acount of his opposition to the war but the last no that I got changed its tone and says it is in favor of prossicuteing the war with vigor till pece is conqerd that good doctrine. I must come to a close write soon

your brother & sister

Isaac and Margaret Smith