7-28-1863

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

Margaret Smith
Isaac Smith

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Ridgefield, Aug. 28th, 1863

Dear Brother and Sister,

I received your kind letter a few days ago, in which you say it has been a great trial since you wrote to me last January. I should be sorry to think that I answered all the letters I got from you in the rest of the folks in the East. But at the same time I am willing to acknowledge that I am early, not because I have forgotten you all, but that I have a good resolution of you all, and hope I will have as long as I live. This leaves no usually well-use to have had a great deal of sickness since last Christmas. I have sent my thanks to Salem, but Winter to school and took the mumps and then the Richmond fever, was sick there about three weeks before we could get him home in March. He thought it was about enough to go to the mines and get to the ground round baby and look the living fine and when the he got out that he took the inflammatory rheumatism he was over about seven weeks I had to go after him, it is about 850 miles from here. I lost me a good horse, 100 and fifty dollars, he is now well as I believe, but his leg is stiff and weak. He is gaining. Rachel Matthona also had a severe cold of flu, and Richard Smith in

done by complacence or the acknowledgment of the...

This party calls themselves Peace Democrats. Bunning if it is the same kind of democracy that you have in 1860, I think you are very near right. It may be the kind that they have in New York, and Alabama. That is resisted the draft. If when it is to say here they they went stand the draft. If I had time I would like notice all of the objections in detail. I have not, suffice it to say that the majority of the people of this section has said and still say that this rebellion must go on and not let it cost what it will. I am all songs in this contest.

Ralph Nelson, I have seen no one for an opponent and the other against Democrats or Rebels, it secures making the best all of me for the ground of this party. I have been sympathecies with the rebellion. But the face fifty says that all of Virginia Kentucky, the others are I have not court comparison than I say we can have done it in. Nashwau, Memphis a few miles is grounded by a line is located that nothing but a jurisdiction if it is so the people is seeing they can work it right after the war is over. It is not being to say the manner. The union fire, correct the enemy. In the way we have been and adapted community. My principle is to discard all parties and party odds and only stand upon what all the people and the people that I have been.

Yours truly,

[Signature]
may last. She is now well in nursing up my affairs on the account of sickness since last Easter, as is in the neighborhood of $600. This is pretty hard on me but I do not complain it while having a good saloon near I have little patience to stay here in regard to Doctor Bill. I do not think that all that I have paid since I have been here will stay. For this year I have been the sicklest season since we came here. The disease has mostly cut off the largest of the crops in the country now. It has greatly reduced and Thomas was last child when this day. The condition are usually well as far as I know. grandmother has been here this Spring. She generally stays about two weeks. She enjoys good health join person as old as she is. She has had a hard cold for close to three weeks. She was getting over it. The last week I have had a severe attack of influenza. This Spring I have not been able to work any amount this Spring till lately. I have been making for a week or ten days. Harvest is on us with a wing and this first rate plant in a hundred. About two days a week back pilfering and making out of apple the trees is to fall yet. I have several bunches of last year apples on hand yet and this year ones getting ripe. I think this must be the best fruit country in the world at least for apples. Milns is cheap and has as well.

as I was coming home with Rufus I met Hunt Shaffird and Simp [illegible]. We went to the unison. They was in fine spirits. Expected to have more feed. I fear they will be disappointed. Though some are making fortunes and they may be the lucky ones. Wright is up there at the Best Mines. He started with Rufus. He reached the town and started nothing. Don't get rather duties here at this mine. Our market is glutted with a masterly thing. Consequently hard time. But you is selling in jet at 3 1/2 dollars. Linen work from one to one hundred and fifty dollars per yard. I have a pair of matched horses that I have been offered $4.00. I want to know Sarah Burt's husband name the Sign. It is Damore. A Allen.

We have had some cheering news of late that is the surrender of Vicksburg & Port Hudson and the victory over Lee in Pennsylvania. The armies that makes us think that the beginning of the end has come may the work gone until the rebellion is said to be low that it will never raise its head again while lives last. There is a crop of corn that is going to our learning. Perhaps our such victories. They say the union cannot be sound by fighting and that the blood & money spent in all last and if the government is saved it must be
July the 28th 1863

Dear Brother & Sister

I received your kind letter a few days ago in which you say it has bin a good while since you wrote to me but longer since you read one, in reply I would say that I answer all the letters I get from you or the rest of the folks in Ills but at the same time I am willing to acknowledge that I am careless, not because I have forgotten you all I still have a fond recollection of you all, and hope I will have as long as I live. this leaves us usually will we have had a good deal of sickness since last Christmas Rufus went to Salem last winter to school and took the mumps and then the Tiphoid fever, was sick there about three weeks before we could get him home in March he thought he was stout enough to go to the mines and took the Grand round rally and took the lung fever and when he got over that he took the inflammatory Rheumatism he was there about seven weeks I had to go there it is about 350 miles from here it lost me about three hundred & fifty dollars he is now well as to health but his legs is still weak but he is gaining Rachel Matilda also had a severe spell of Influenza and Tiphoid fever in may last she is now well in suming up my expenses on the account of sickness since last Christmas is in the neighborhood of $500 this is dirty hard on me but I do not complain it mite have bin a gret deal worse I have bin fortunate here to fore in regard to doctor bills I do not think that all that I have paid since I have bin would be fifty dollar till this yeare, this has bin the sickest season since we have bin here the diseases has mostly bin contigias the scarlet fever is in the country now it generly goes hard Thomas Lucas lost a child the other day the connexion are usually well as faire as I know Grandmother has bin here twice this spring she generly stays about two weeks she injoys good health for a person as old as she is she has had a bad cold for two or three weeks she was getting over it the last we herd I have had a severe attack of Influenza this spring I have not bin able to work any of account this spring till lately I have bin haying for a week or ten days, harvest is on us with a vengence crops first rate fruit in a bundence & spent two days a while back pulling and nocking of apples the trees is to full yet I have severel bushes of last years apples on hand yet and this years ones geting ripe I think this must be the best fruit country in the world at least
for apples plums & chers and peas as well. as I was coming home with Rufus I met Levit Phelps and Smith Walaces oldest boy going to the mines thay was in fine spirits expecting to make there pile I feare thay will be diapainted though some are making fortunes and thay may be the lucky ones Wright is up thare at the Bisi Mines he started with Rufus he wrote he had bin geting fore dollars per day part of the time and part doing nothing Times is rather dull here at this time our market is gluted with a most every thing, consequently hard times. Beef is selling on foot at 3 cts per pound muton sheep $3 per head bacon 16 cts American Horses is worth from one to one hundred and fity dollars per hed I have a pair of mateed horses that I have bin offerd $400. Wheat is worth 75 c per bushel & 1 you want to know Sarah Butlers husbands name he signs it James M. Allen.

The union men have had some cheering news of late that is the surrender of Vicksburg & Port Hudson and the victory over Lee in Pennsilavania & other victories that makes us think that the begining of the end has come may the work go on until the Rebellion is laid so low that it will never raise its wicked hed again while time last, thare is a clap of men here that objects to our burning powder over such victories thay say the union can not be saved by fighting and that the blood & money spent is all lost and if the government is saved it must be done by complimise of the acknowledgement of the Southern confederacy (God forbid) thay further say that the Abolishonist caused the war and that it is unconstitutionaly and that all or nearly all of the acts of the President are violations of the constitution this party calls themsevs Peace Democrats I wonder if it is the same kind of democracy that you have in Ills if so I think you are very near Dixie it may be the kind that thay have in New York and Indiana that is resistin the draft I suppose it is, thay say here thay wont stand the draft if I had time I wold like notice all of the objections in detail I have not, suffise it to say that the majority of the people of this union has said and still say that this Rebellion must & shall be put down let it cost what it will. I am like Doug in this contest thare is but two sides one for our government and the other against Patriots & Rebels we are makeing the most important history our side the Bible let us make it will if we tak the ground of this party I have bin speaking off the future historian will tell us we was sympathiseers with the rebellion, but this Peace party say we cannot conquer them I say we can & have done it in part, part of Virginia Kentucky & Misourii is now Loil Nashvill Memphis & New Orleans is governd by a fiw solder I canot goin to particulas thay say the Constitution is violated that nothing but opinion & if it is so the people is sovering thay can make it right after the war is over let us never stop triing to save the union the union firs, correct the rongs after the war is over and before if convenient, my principles is to discard all party and party creed and let every union man work with all his mite the prise is for him that runs. send your letters to Bridgeport the letter I got from you lay in the office at Monmouth two week

Matilda Smith, J M Butler

M & Isaac Smith