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Wisconsin territorial letters--1840. Box 1 Folder 4

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Circular

cular Pleasant Prairie W. T. Nov 20th 1840
Dear Brother, And all Friends— For I in

~~you must of no credit to me~~
~~It is not any more in your power~~
It is indeed a fact that they can raise wheat and other grain, easier than in your country, but what does it avail them? there is no market for it, and but very little sale any way - it is extremely seldom that a bushel of wheat can be sold for cash - Good winter wheat, prices fifty Cents, spring no sale, Corn about thirty, potatoes fifteen - and not much cash even at these reduced prices -

The ease with which it is produced, is owing rather to the ease with which their lands are cultivated than to exorbitant crops - I think I am full high in my statement, when I say that twenty bushels of wheat is an average yield, and thirty of Corn.

But let them take the same pains here which you do, and they would probably double their wheat, and triple their Corn - But enough about Crops -

I wish to say something about ^{the} people - and must begin with the assertion that they are poor, especially so far as money is concerned - for they have none, and there is but very little in the country - a large majority came here poor, and many of them here remained so - Those who came first, and made large claims most favorably located, and got their land at government price (\$1.25 per acre) which has since risen to from 5 to 15 dollars did well -

With regard to their manner of living, it is even better than I expected to see it, in so new a country - I speak of the country immediately around Southport, but I do not suppose it will do to take this as a fair sample of western life, for it is much better - Even here are many log cabins, and people are suffering under many privations, and doing without many luxuries which the good people of New England would hardly consent to dispense with - There is no fruit of any kind - and in imagination to yourself, a.

All luck seems to follow me when ever I go. I had the satisfaction of losing one of my trunks on my way to this country, which was worth, just far from one hundred dollars. It contained that set of coats which Mr. Paves made for me before his emigration, which had never once been worn, and another nice set as good, some articles of clothing, very book which I had in the world, some little notes to the amount of 35 dollars, besides all my letters and papers which were of value to me. It was taken off from the steamboat by mistake or stolen off at some of the ports in Ohio - this in addition to what I lost in Boston is no inconsiderable sum. You will see by the date of this letter, that it was not written at Southport. the place from which I date, is 3 miles from S. where I expect to spend the winter. I have had upon an opportunity when I can make my living and something more.

Prasanna Prasad { 25
Dandy

Mr. James H. Stevens

Cincinnati
Ohio

From thence I took a steamboat and went to Detroit stopping on the way at Cleveland, after which I went to Detroit and my stopping place was at Mackinaw. I had heard in the evening could not swim. We had a rough passage all the way, and on Lake Huron we encountered a stiff gale and came near suffering shipwreck. We were the only one on the lake that day.

You will ask what I am a going to do, I can hardly tell you. I may possibly stay in Southport. but I think now that I shall go to St. Louis in the spring. I should have gone this fall, but Eli was anxious for me to stay here this winter. I wanted to describe to you my journey, and the places through which I passed, but have not space. I will however mention some of them. I stopped in New York City one day - went to Albany Troy Schenectady Utica Rochester and Buffalo. I stopped in this last city two days, found Dr. William Williams who, I was told is getting rich, or is already so.

Elkhorn July 6th 1850

Dear Jay

We have just received your letter of April 13th. I should think it had travelled the Territory over. See it is post marked Ellivaukie and says mis sent and forwarded. a paper from you of June 19 came to hand in the same mail, you say it is married which I suppose means Abby; but who the happy swain is you leave me to imagine.)

We should be glad to have you send a certificate of deposit of as much money as you can spare us, as soon as possible 300 if no more. You may send a Threshing machine (one of Hale's patent) as soon as you receive this, make as good a bargain as you can, ^{with regard to the freight bill} pay the freight and write what it is, and what time you send it, also. to the Co send it to George Bowman Ellivaukie. William wishes you to say to Mr Hale that he wants the right to use it in the town of Elkhorn ^{and send that writing to him} according to their conversation. If you can send Green's Straw Cutters, to be paid for in the same way you may procure one and send at the same time, have them come direct as freight is cheaper now, he wishes to have a band a good leather one for the machine, so that it will be ready to use when it gets here.

W. joins me in love to all Chasley sends a kiss to Cousin Zerviah. Congratulate the young bride, write the man's name (if he has one) tell us about him and if it is a good match. Yours in haste M. E. & N. B.

OK

Edw. Howard
July 6th 1840

27th
Frank

My Motherly
J. M. L.
Borne
Allyson

258

Sapointe 18th September 1840

Dear father & Co
Granville

Dear

I have hardly time to write a few lines. It has struck me that perhaps the payment of the fire Insurance on the buildings has been neglected, and if so I beg of you to have them immediately insured for their full value. If you are in want of funds you may draw on Mr Crooks ^{at New York} for money enough to pay it, who I have requested to pay it.

I have not much news to tell you - we are all well Julia and my wife expecting to every day to follow the command "multiply the earth" and you shall be very amused on their appearance of their names &c -

How do you get along with the fish.

Please write us soon direct to St Marys Michigan

Very truly yours

Chas. D. Prout

D

6K

25-

Sales & Co. }
Mr. Dev. Dec 14 }

Saved Cakes Easy

Amundsen & Co

Grand River Lodge

L. H. Brown /
Dec 11 1840
New York 13 1841

58

1
Kinnville May 21, 1846,

Dear Brother

Your last letter was read with feelings of peculiar pleasure. I do feel that I can rejoice with you in the best hope that Christ has redeemed you from all your sins and washed you in His ~~own~~ precious blood. O dear brother live near the Saviour live for Him and not for yourself. if you would enjoy much of His presence and the light of His countenance guard against the first declension in your own spirits watch unto pray are the Saviour's words and much they need to be heeded. We have enjoyed a revival of religion in this place the past spring between 60 and 70 have united with ^{the} Baptist and Congregational churches. God has in mercy been pouring out His spirit in different parts of the territory and turning sinners from the love of sin to the love and service of Himself. I receive a letter from home this April it contained an account of Aunt Sarah. I think it must be very lonely for father and mother. But they have William near them now and for their sakes I am very much rejoiced but the very last place I should have thought he would have selected if he had traveled.

The baby that you inquired about is a girl
she was one year old last March. We have
given her the name of Emma Caroline.
She talks some and I think would learn
to say uncle soon if she had any one to
say it to. With regard to difficulties I remember
none and I trust my friends do not whenever
I have any. I will endeavor to make a special
communication so that you may be sure and
act accordingly.

Nov, 21, 1840,

Well brother you see by my second letter
some months have elapsed since I commenced. My
letter I would lay it aside and commence again
but I am afraid it would be a long time
before I should hear from you for if I under-
stand you I am not to hear from you till
you have received a letter from me. Now
brother as to your charges for not writing
I shall have to plead guilty in some mea-
sure but if you were to come and make us
a visit I think you would be able to discover
more good reasons for my not writing than
I have time at present give but will you not
come and make us a visit next summer it
would be very gratifying to us I have not seen
a relative since I left Greenville. We are only 16
miles west of Milwaukee and the stage passes
our house twice a week the prairie and openings
of Wisconsin are very pleasant and we have very good
society for a new country. My best love the friend
Please write soon and write where Sophia is
your affectionate sister Julia C. Griffing

Read

Received of
 Mrs. Julia C. Gifford
 Proctor Village
 N. Y.
 Dec 21 1890

Received of Dec 21 - 1890

Henry S. Bacon
 St. Louis
 Mo.

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57 52
 28 3
 35 7 18
 3162