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Wisconsin territorial letters--1851. Box 1 Folder 14

[s.l.]: [s.n.], [s.d.]

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OK

L. Mills, vis. Feb 28th 1837.

Friend Seward (I mean Duddy)

For if I mistake not, it is myself that is writing to you, & not you to me. Your letter arrived last evening. Am pleased to learn of your general prosperity, & hope that it will continue. Long live Duddy my old chum!

It seems that your people are trying to build a meeting house. My congregation are making a similar effort. The brick are paid for & on the ground within sight of my house. The timber is there also. The sand pile is yet small, but it will soon grow. Our plan is for about 80 by 40, to cost nearly \$800. & I am afraid will not be finished for that sum. We are but a handful & having always met in the school house in common with Methodists, Presbyterians, Baptists, Episcopalians, Campbellites &c &c. almost every one out of our own denomination wants a Union house, or rather is glad of such an excuse for not helping. I hope we shall succeed in getting a house of our own in which we shall be free from a 1000 petty, contemptible annoyances to which we are now continually subject from the jealousy of other denominations. You know nothing of it, & perhaps never will. If you succeed in Ridgely & have a small surplus, will you be so kind as to remember us? It will be thankfully received. If it were only \$100. it would help some.

You say "leave it out for things entirely out of myself you would do me, & in this next spring." Now I wonder what the governing power is that is out of yourself! Don't you keep your own will? If not, who is keeper? Is your heart a tenant? Has it been stolen away by some good angel? If so I can't but rejoice, & hope you will not long have to live alone in the passage. If you will come his way I will give you a license to marry & perform the ceremony free of charge. But it may be you are like a young minister who preached a year or more in Watertown, Wis., they liked him much, but when he went back & married Mrs. C. was not willing to come to us.

Your land, I guess is safe & your money too. Your direction was right & Gilbert will attend to it I presume in good time. If I hear from him I will let you know. I would again advise you if you are not coming his way soon to give me the duplicate & I will try to relieve you from any further anxiety about the tapes. I should like to see you at my house. My year is out here the first of April next, & I leave occasionally, & have had for some years ^{thoughts} of leaving. I want to stay & see a meeting house & the Ch. & Society well under way for doing something in this community that seems permanent. The inducements in a pecuniary point of view are all to leave rather than to remain. \$125. a year & another \$100. from the Am. M. Assn. is no more than I need to provide for my family & not deny the fact & be worse than an infidel. It don't afford me much cash to spend foolishly or usefully either, after procuring the necessaries of life. A donation of \$100. cash to recruit my library would be gratefully received.

We have a family nest of Swedenborgians in our village. The oldest physician & 4 or 5 families related to him profess to embrace his sublime philosophy. They believe in the spiritual writings which have been enlightening the good people of Milwaukee the past winter. If I stay here another year, I suppose I shall have to examine the new revelations of Swedenborg. I want to know what his works as published by Prof. Bush cost. Also Andrew J. Davis, M.D. additional links to the same heavenly chain. Also Prof. Pond's of Bangor giving of Swedenborg's entire works. If you should be in N. York will you make inquiry about these books, do I presume they will cost too much for me to procure here.

There has been some religious interest at several points in the vicinity of L. Mills, during the last fall & winter. One neighborhood 4 miles from the village, over the lake, in which there has been no regular preaching, & none but irregular professors, is now aroused by the spirit of God. A blind man is preaching there most of the time. He is a Protestant Methodist. We hope the work will be deep & abiding. There is so much excitement & noise got up here at most of these special efforts, that it is liable to be short lived. Backsliders who believe in falling from grace warm up quick & cool off as quick. And the preaching is not so systematic enough to instruct & bring out the judgment clear & strong.

If you see Cae, please remember me to him. I should like as soon as the weather is pleasant to exchange with him & you too. Make your arrangements accordingly.

Is Eggleston preaching in Bacon's pulpit during his absence?

Yours fraternally

P.S. All comfortably well now,

E. D. Seward.



1837

Mr Martin Dudley
Ridgebury
Ok.

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S. Mills, Wis. Aug - 1837.

Friend Dudley,

I was somewhat surprised to learn from your letter to day that you had not heard from me in so long a time. Now I think I did as I generally do, answer your letter in good season. I may be mistaken - I am sometimes. One thing I will acknowledge, viz. if it has not been answered, it ought to have been long ago.

You will please remember however that my cares are somewhat more numerous & weighty than your own. You live where the ants are worn deep & the work goes along in the road without continual attention. Your domestic duties are something as they were in College & Seminary. You have to get up & wash your face & hands before breakfast - quite a task doubtless! I sometimes lend a hand in washing several faces & doing sundry other chores before the little ones are all ready. This summer I have kept 2 cows, fattened the calves & made them weigh 100 lbs. at 5 1/2 weeks, & now I have the cows to milk before breakfast. Every day or two a little wood must be cut. My pigs never forget to remind me of their wants if am forgetful of theirs. My garden lays a heavy tax upon me & now it takes some time to get corn & potatoes & cucumbers & sundry other vegetables that are convenient on the table at sundry times of day. It seems sometimes as though nearly half of my time

was needed to do chores which can't be avoided.

This summer I have a horse & wagon & my horse like all horses wants feeding & watering & carrying &c. I find it pleasant to have one again after living without more than 2 years. Mine cost me \$40. & a new wagon & harness \$65. more. If you ask, are they paid for? I can say yes. But how? I hardly know.

If I did not answer your letter you will please accept my thanks for both letter & gift. They were very acceptable. And you must not get out of patience & threaten never to write to me again until I do to you. But I think you ought rather to be willing to write twice to my once.

I am glad your meeting house is prospering so well. Hope you will be in it by Oct. I should like to be at the dedication if you will let me know when it will come. Our house is begun. The walls are now being laid up. How soon it will be finished I can't say, because money is so uncertain. The season has been very unfavorable. Excessive rains & a poor crop of wheat puts the farmer behind. Things look rather more encouraging here than they did a year ago. Still I sometimes think I will not remain only this year. I have no plans however matured for leaving. My wish to have one remain as much (I think more) than they did 2 or 3 years ago. Our village improves but slowly. Nothing remarkable has occurred here of late, except a fire which destroyed a sal-cratus factory.

The Milwaukee & Miss. R. road will probably be finished to Whitewater 20 miles S.E. of us, this fall. The Rock River road from Fond du Lac to Jaynesville has been commenced & will

run some 6 miles E. of us. There will soon be a road from Watertown to Milwaukee & then we can leave home in bad weather.

I went to Chicago the 12th of July to attend the Christian Anti Slavery Con. It was a good meeting, talented, spirited (& that a good spirit), our enemies themselves being judges. I saw G. S. F. Savage there from St. Charles Ill. the 1st time I have met him. I saw Geo. Hubbard from N. Haven. Besides our Senior class-mate ones there. He has never preached - has been teaching in Ohio - thought of going to Michigan into a school at Milan, I think. The bad roads kept others away. Heard from Benson. He was doing well - has left Grand Detours - is now at Rockford, a county seat, about 18 miles down the river from Beloit.

I do not wonder that you envy J. L. D. his happiness. But as often as you think of his being actually married & of Lecter in prospect, repeat over the 10th commit, or that part of it relative to your neighbor's wife. I have heard from home the same story about you that you tell about Lecter; but I can't readily believe any such thing possible, unless you tell me yourself. If you are not proof against Cupid's darts, I know it takes 2 to make a bargain; so if you are ever of any acct in the world, I shall be agreeably surprised. Still I would advise you to read Ex. Gov. Briggs' address at the anniversary of the State Normal School at Albany to old bachelors! read & meditate!!

Mrs. S. deeply sympathizes with you in your mournful wailings over your unhappy lot & would do almost anything reasonable to afford relief.

The children are well, Katy, Ella, Flora & Lulu. Come & see them & make us a good visit & see your Mrs. farm. There is a new village somewhere in that region. Write & ambrace your mother truly. Yours, Seward.



PAID 3

Rev. Mr. Dudley,
Ridgebury
Fairfield Co.,
Ct.
I rec'd your letter before
the mail is mailed and
the dear Good Bye
E.B.

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OFFICE OF WASHBURN & WOODMAN,
MINERAL POINT, WISCONSIN,

Nov. 20

1851

Esq. Richardson
Madison
Wis.

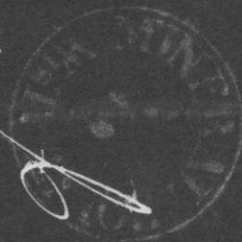
Your favor of the 18th
has been rec^d. enclosing Land
Warrant for location. We have
made the location & enclose
certificates.

Yours Obedtly

Washburn & Woodman

Washburn & Woodman
20 Nov 87

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J. Richardson Esq
Madison
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