

1851  
Butteville Marion County O. Nov 7<sup>th</sup>

Dear Brother & Sister

I for the first time take my pen to let you know that I am yet numbered among the living & that I have not forgotten you yet I have never received a letter from you since I left there but do not consider that I have much room for complaint as I have never wrote to you I hope you will forgive my neglect and I will try to do better hereafter Our family is well at present which consists of my Husband my self & two little girls the oldest one will be three years old in April next her name is Olivia Angelina the other one is one year old her name is Elizaeth also Fathers family is all well & all of the relations William Heiron has two children a Son & a Daughter they call one of them David Atcherson the other one Burthia Angelina George C Sawton has a Son about one month old I believe he has no name yet they have been living at Fathers for the last six or eight months but are about to retire on to there farm Abeline Vaughn lost another Daughter I suppose you have been informed of the Death of their Oldest one it was about seven months old when it died Mr Rees has rented his farm and intends putting in about fifty bushels of wheat & twenty or thirty of oats he has built a House on another part of his farm in which his tenant now live he has no family except a wife Our Country flourishes as fast as could be expected we have Steam boat arrivals <sup>& departures</sup> daily within about two miles of our farm Father ~~was~~ received a letter from you dated the 13 of April by the care of Mr Helin in which you wrote that you expected to come to Oregon next year or never I think the sooner you come the better for in a very few

had no frost as yet to kill the vegetation the Orchards  
& meadows look as green & as flourishing as in May  
and Strawburys pumpkin vines &c are yet blossoming  
vegetables that is common in your State in July  
& August may be found here at this time which  
in most cases is the second or volunteer crop

I would here say that the grand Secret in a trip across  
the plains is in an early start good teams light but  
substantial waggons with no other loading than your  
beds & bedding clothing say sufficient for one year and  
such cooking utensils as you may need on the road  
as you will find Goods wares & Merchandise of  
all kinds in Oregon plenty & very cheap travel  
in companies only sufficiently large for self protection  
be near the foremost train never lag by an entire day  
unless it is absolutely necessary drive steady & moderate  
& you will reach our neighbourhood in from 80 to 90  
days — good medium American horses & mares  
are worth \$1.50 Oxen from \$75 to \$100 Cows from \$30 to \$40  
waggons in good repair from \$100 to \$125 Wheat \$1.00 to \$1.25  
potatoes 75 cts per bush The emigrants of this year  
are all in some reached here as early as the  
first of August they report having some difficulty  
with the indians on the road the number that  
has arrived I see set down at 8,000 & yet it  
seemingly makes but little change as they scatter  
over so large a district of country lands partially  
improved may be had here yet at reasonable rates  
but that day will soon pass away to be known  
no more for ever there is plenty of vacant land  
yet to be taken but it generally lays back from  
the rivers I see that Amanda has given you all  
the family news I will close wright & let us know when  
you start I am Sir yours &c W. H. Reed  
Wm McCulloch