

Portland file

Butteveill, Oregon, August 5, 1873

Dear Mother, I addressed you not long since enclosing a couple of face-shapes of Amanda and myself. Did you receive them? I herewith forward you photographs of our youngest boy, "Willard Clay Rees" He is nearly a year older than I was when in 1825 we arrived in Preble Co., Ohio, from the little whipping post state of our nativity. Willie is a bright active child and I suspect you will not fail of detecting in his features a vivid reproduction of the paternal side of his ancestry.

Lora left here a few days since enroute for her sister Libbie's in Eastern Oregon intending to visit all her relatives in the section of the state.

Portland, like Chicago and Boston has just been visited by the firey-fiend. Some 23 blocks were consumed destroying in the neighborhood of one million dollars worth of property.

I was sorrow to learn of the apparent unhealthy condition of your two state universities located at Oxford and Athens. Founded, I believe in 1809 upon the magnificent grant of one entire township of land to each institution. These old universities are the alma mater of many of Ohio's most distinguished sons. But their mission and usefulness has to a great extent always been overshadowed and general sympathy for their prosperity withheld by their narrow sectarian mismanagement. Mark the contrast between these dying universities and the once despised founded long after by private means, but has most truly become a power in the land. Concentrating in her various departments I believe now less than a thousand students making no discrimination against color, sex, or age. I should mourn to hear of the death of Miami University but rejoice to know that she has become strong and useful by ceasing to be known among men as a mere sectarian school. I will enclose three miniatures, two of Willie and one of myself. Take your choice and give one each to Olivia and Ellen.

I shall pass on in the even tenor of my way, hoping to receive at an early day your acknowledgment of the hastily written note. Tell my sisters that the slightest token of remembrance from them is always received with a grateful heart. Long may health and happiness attend you, making smooth your pathway of life.

Yours, WH Rees