

June 23^d 1868

Sinking Valley Blair Co. Pa
My Old Friend Willard

As I have safely arrived at the
domicile of our Mutual Friend David
in this land of our forefathers and in
talking over and over the happy times
of the past in Oregon and yourself
and Family being foremost in our
minds, and now that we have just
been to breakfast and David has gone to
show his men about the days work
and his good Wife is busily engaged
in doing up the morning work, I come
to the conclusion that a few lines to you
is due and here it is. We are well and
David is decidedly so, having a happy
and worthy help make a good home
plenty of all the comforts of life, a good
farm in good order well stocked, in
short nothing is wanting to make one
happy in this world and to give a fair
start for one in the West.

Wm. Sewell

and the Indians are astonished as
well as myself at the wonders we
have seen, and a trip from Oregon
to California and along the coast to Panama
and so on to New York thence through
Philadelphia Baltimore and dozens
of bye important places should and will
astonish any one who is not familiar
with the Geography of our Country.

Crawfords three big Brothers are
here on a visit to see us and all
of them are large fine men, Dave
is a good sample of them all, they
are first rate men.

Can't say when I will be back.
The Government pays my Expenses
too and from Oregon. Give kind
regards to Judge Grim, David &
and for your welfare our
lasting good wishes.

David and all sends their love
to Amanda and Children
Gerd has not
come back
Robert Newell

I have now paid a visit which I
promised myself should I ever come
to the East, that was to see David Crawford
our old friend, I have done so and
don't regret it. I come here on the 21st
and will return to Washington City in the
morning, tomorrow. This is truly a beautiful
section of country and takes its name from
the fact that the water sinks in the valley
from the surrounding mountains which
is grand and picturesque indeed.
every house is provided with a spring
near the house gushing from a lime
stone bed, around the edge of the valley.
I spent the day yesterday visiting the
relatives of my two friends David and his
Wife and a pleasant time did we have
I assure you, the little mud is an old one,
the improvements substantial and most
comfortable, the relatives of David ^{and his wife} are so
numerous they almost amount to a tribe.
Altoona is the ^{largest town about here} ~~county seat~~ and about 8 miles
from here and is on the Pacific Rail Road

and considered to be the best Road in
the United States and it was decidedly
the best I have seen, In fact its all
nearly a town hereabouts, as Mineral
such as Iron and in some localities Lead
and Zinc is to be found. Lime Lumber
and Coal attract the Attention of the
Capitalists here which gives labor
to the thousands engaged in that business.
Grant seems to be the man here for President.
This place is about 200 miles from
Washington City, I left Washington at 8 A.M.
and arrived at 9 P.M. in Altoona.
I have so far got along admirably well
at Washington City with the business for
which I have come. As to the News in general
you will see in the papers, and the News
in particular is about Crawford &c
Our trip from San Francisco was a
pleasant one to New York and so on to
Washington City, and since then, I have
succeeded well in becoming well acquainted
with many of the able men of our Nation.