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MARCH
1856

Lincolnville March — 1856

My Dear Son,

I received yours of the 28th ult. on Saturday the 8th but, was truly glad to hear from you and learn that you and family were all well. I had worried that you so long neglected to write me — Six months has brought an answer to my last. You speak of the times being dull, of your losses and that you are not doing any thing, that you have given up all hope and expectation of ever accumulating much property, and especially if you remain in the Section of Country you are now in,

I am sorry for your misfortunes and disappointments you have met with, of the enormous the hardships I think you have since I saw you, — 16 years give about 5000 working days, and it is enough to discourage one to know that misfortune has followed him that term of time, I most sincerely wish it was otherwise, I wish I could see you — But long since I gave up that hope, Here I am, an old creature, worn out, or rusted out, and almost out of life, my hearing left one last July, tho' I can now hear a sound but can't understand the language, eye sight I have but little, my right side from my feet to the crown of my head is almost insensible to every thing but pain,

Had I the means I think I would go quite a distance to see a living Father if I had one not withstanding all my infirmities — But Circumstances alter Cases, I shall have to close up this page and begin on the next.

Mary has been quite unwell this winter, but is some
better now, the rest of family are well, Fanny is in
Camden this winter, off she should get married
in my short-life time, I will try to let you know
it, she does not enjoy very good health, we learn
that Garrison's wife is quite unwell, I believe
he is well, but not doing very well, These
nurses has very good health, her children are
not very well, I guess Joel is well enough to be
----- Ruth is much afflicted with a lame
Stomach and lame side, But she is from home
nursing a woman that was a little girl when
you left Lincolnville, viz, Judith Neal, daughter
of Michael Neal, — first daughter by second wife,
she married a man by the name of Morse.

Martin V. B. began house keeping Dec. 11th
the and Lucy are well, — I hope they will do
well, — Dennis is now at home, but wants to leave
home in April — I suppose he will, then
this old creature will have a hard case — well, I said
he was worn out, and I think that was not far from
the truth, — Last fall Huldah got a chance to
board with Phoebe and go to school at Lincolnville
Centre, a good chance, to a good school, kept
by a good master, she went awhile and then
had to break off and come to to Mary's, for
which I was very sorry, Frances C. the baby
is at home with me and Betsy, she has got
as sharp an eye as you ever saw in the head of
a Richards, Her height is 5 feet and an 1/4 inch, one
inch taller than Ruth or Huldah, My Wife is very
poorly all the time, Our winter here is a master
one, about which I must tell you on the next page,

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1850

When please to answer this soon as you can.

3/4
MARCH
1854

If my memory is correct we have had but one light rain here since the 23^d of December, old men say they never knew so dry a winter before; the wind has been and is equal to the winter drought, and snow in proportion to both. ^{Provisions} bear a great price - Flour from 10. to 14, Rye 1.50, Corn has fallen from 8 shill. to 7 shill., Pork is 15 cts, ^{at} 10 shill. 45 Tea 50 cts, Gunpowder (a very necessary article) has gone up from 2.25 to 5.50, a bad go up, for the free Settlers of Kansas, it is quite singular in that I say, Hard wood has been from 6 down to 4 this winter in Kansas, was the same last Sept, from \$3.75 to 3, wood has not command cash this winter as it did last, Most all the ^{hard} wood that goes in, is second growth, Beans, a bush 4 doll. Butter 25 cents, ^{pr. lb.} ^{and} the buyer come after it, we have sold between 50 and 60 weight - got a little yet, I heartily wish that you and Francis had a part of it, I shall ^{to} stop.

Can you come and make us a visit, or can you not, I think we should be more glad to see you than ^{would} you, to see us, as it possible my complexion is a ^{little} pale (see one); - save bear with, while I ask

If you will answer this ^{to} short of 6 months,

I do hope that this may find you all well, Tell Mary and Caroline that Grand

father wrote this, My dear grand children

I wish I could see you, If I could I would take

you in my arms, and on my knee, and kiss

you, The my poor old white-head might wish

to see you, Little Children be one another,

Love your parents, learn to read, learn to write,

and then send Grand Pa a letter,

4/4
MORNING
1856

Monday evening, thirty minutes past nine.
It has been a very cold day and it is seven
cold tonight. But I must close by saying
we all remain affectionately yours

Wm. Richards

Friday 9th post 4 P.M. It looks some like a thaw - Mail this
tomorrow - the stamp is for Agt.

Wm Richards

March - 1856