

St. Joseph Mo

Nov last day

Dear parents we have never yet received any letters from you since we left Paris although we have written to you frequently we are wintering here – uncle Prov is near here we got a letter from him a few days since he and all his host are on the track for California or Oregon – he says it is so sickly in Indiana that a decent white man cannot live there and that he has no fears of “worsing himself” let him go where he may he has been sick night unto death since he started but his courage still hold out _ O GOD! How I have suffered in the spirit since I saw you not in the flesh – the hardships natural and physical were never anything to me – cold, hunger and fatigue never weight anything in my mind – they only furnish a wholesome food and excitement. But disease has rendered our family more like a hospital than anything else Martha still survives in a marvelous yet entirely hopeless manner She has been unable to walk for above 3 months Her disorder is chronic Diarhea I wish you would let us know if you have heard from Lewelyn and where he is – tell me how you expect to spend the remainder of your life – whether time passes us pleasantly in Ma Wilsons family as you anticipated it would – whether the tone and moral capacity of society pleases you etc I see your legislature have kicked your railroad overboard -- is your land rising as fast as you expected? Land here is worth 15 dollars per acre!!! Sam expects to come by you going to Ohio let us know what news you have from James Miller – Is Andrew Olver with you this winter? Do you ever expect to come any farther west? Will you go to Oregon with us? So far as speculation is concerned I could do well any where west of the Mississippi River but then the fever and Ague O Hell!! Let me go to Pine Shingles and Buckwheat cakes Pure air and if it must be poor country – curse the debilitating effects of this eternal stretch of rich lands. I am satisfied that you made money in the starr farm But take a fools advice and don't you be temted to by a residence in Paris keep close to the pure springs of the “Barrens” as your folks claim them I mean all that scope of counter between Mill creek and Big Creek I have just consulted an aged Canadian Doctor he thinks possibly Martha may yet recover – I have spent nearly all my money among the doctors along the Road But if God wills I mean to get it back with interest – Lord grant you a peacable hour in which to die and many long and peaceable days to live.

Yours truly,
Hiram Colver

Dear father

My family have enjoyed very good health ever since I left Paris with the exception of a short but violent attack of the same complaint Hiram's family have been so sorely afflicted with and as yet Coon and Martha are sick yet Martha dangerously, it is a disease unknown to us before called by some “cholera Diarea”

This country is very rich fine country but no more healthy than our Indiana or Illinois
Shall see you perhaps early in the spring on my ? to Ohio I still intend to cross the Rocky
Mountain next spring if life and health be ? and seek if possible a more salutious claim.

Your affectionate son
Sam'l Colver

Samuel Colver
Marshal
Clark Co Illinois

Hiram Colver
St. Joseph Missouri

Transcribed by Marcia Philbrick
from photocopy of letter received from
Southern Oregon Historical Society
106 N. Central Ave.
Medford, OR 97501-5926

March 2002