

Three-forks of Willamette July 29th 1841

Dear parents, I have just concluded the reading of Mother's letter of May last - I have also been favored with one from Lemly to David Colver - What a host of recollections are called up by the perusal of these letters! - We are all well - Sam and I have located our sections in the south end of Willamette valley. It seems from the tenor of your letters, that what you began in utter folly, three years ago, you intend to consummate in pain and destruction! I duly warned you of the unhappiness which I knew and felt would overtake you when you broke up all those dear associations cemented by love and time. While you were all cheerful in contemplation of the change I alone, was sad for I knew too well the laws of mind and secret workings of my heart to be deceived - Three years have now elapsed since I bade a last farewell to the scenes of my childhood - scenes never to be forgotten - It was with a tearful eye and reluctant footsteps that I then turned away from all things endeared to me by association. I felt then that the Earth did not contain the place that would please me and this apprehension has been fully realized - I though I may have written in familiar terms of Oregon, yet a longer and more familiar acquaintance has served to convince me that I shall never like this country although I expect from necessity to remain here. I warn you now as a dutiful son never to attempt the journey across the plains - What can you hope?

Photocopy obtained from
Eagle Point Historical Society
PO Box 201
Eagle Point, OR 97524