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Medd family fonds

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Letter: [William Thompson], Monaghan [Township], to his friend [in England], 20 November 1819

Notes regarding the transcription:

In this transcription, most misspellings and grammatical anomalies which occur in the original text have been maintained. For example: verry is very, buissenys is business, ower is our. The following symbol was changed to ease reading of the text: '&' changed to 'and'. Occasionally, commas and periods were added to assist in clarifying the sentence structure. Square brackets [] indicate indecipherable text. The following are examples of where symbols represent measurements of currency: 's' is shilling, 'f' is pound.

TRANSCRIPTION

Monaghan September 20 1819

Dear Friend,

I have taken the opportunity to write to you a few times to inform you that we received your kind presents by John Ainley and we are verry thankfull indeed for the Books. For Books here of any kind are verry valuable particularly of a spiritual kind. As we are intirely deprived of the means of grace but we are in hopes that it will not be the case long as here is a church minister com,d [comed] from the west Riding of Yorkshire. I believe near the boundries of Lancashire. His name is Thompson and I believe he is a verry good old man, as he has been at ower house and he seems too have a desire for this place. But he is alleged to go where the Bishop has a mind to send him as he has 2 Hundred pounds per year from our government for coming out as a mission. John Ainley and his family arrived at Smith Creek on the 22nd of June, which is 16 miles from us and they were all well. We have had John Ainley at our house two nights and he seems in good spirits and likes the country verry well and I think he looks fatter and fresher then ever I saw him in my life. But I do not think that he has taken up any land as yet, for he and a many more are waiting for land as there is a Township going to be laid out about 3 miles East of us laying by the side of a fine river which takes its rise from some upper lakes which lies North East from us and emptyes itself into rice lake, laying 1 3/4 miles south of us and Rice Lake emptyes itself into the River Trent and the Trent into the Bay of Quinte and the Bay of Quinte into Lake Ontario and Ontario into St Lawrence by Montreal to Quebeck. To return, this township which is 3 miles East from us will I suppose have about a thousand acres of land in it. They are now

surveying it. The surveyor is a Yorkshire man. The Government is going to pay him in land for surveying the said township. John Barnad and I went down the lake in a boat, a pleasuring and and we met with the surveyor Brother and had a little talk with him. He knows both Consbro and Markit Weighton verry well and we went up the river to this Township to look at the land which is verry good and we could have got bushels of wall nut if we,d [we'd] liked. If I was in England I would apply for land before I started for they come better on than us. They generally get 2 hundred acres of land and there passage free. But any man that do not apply for land till he gets here he cannot get more than one Hundred acres except he be a man of property and can forward the township with some particular improvement such as a flour mill or a saw mill or pot Ashworks or some such like.

Dear friend you seem,d [seemed] to be desirous of a long letter and I hope you have not been disapointed, for I wrote to Cousin Harper and Brother Stephen, Dated January which I hope has come to hand before

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the one to cousin Harper staited to him what to bring and every particular belonging to the passage. But friend we have had a great missfortune, for after we had got our buildings all up and compleat and the workers started a going and things was likely to answer verry well it pleased the Almighty to take our work and building and the little grain and malt we had on hand all from us. For in the Dead of the Night a fire broke out in the Drying Kiln. And in less than 2 hours time the Drying Kiln and Malt house brew house were all in one flame. Our loss was so great that we did not think our selves capable of rebuilding and caring on the buissenys [business] so the bargain was [] and with the little we had we look,d [looked] out for another situation. I took a lease of 2 hundred of land for 21 years. The rent is £11.1s per year. I bought one pair of oxen. They cost £17 and 2 cows for £11.10s and we made a sled [] and on the 27 of March we yoked our oxen, the snow being 2 1/2 feet on a level. And we went to see Mr. Dawson who lived about 1 1/2 miles from our land at whose we tarried till the 6 day of May and about the midle of April we begun to make sugar but the season being bad and verry short we only made about 50 lb of sugar, 2 or 3 gallons of molases and 10 gallons of vinegar which one find verry usefull. And on the 6 of May we begun to chop and clear land and put up a house which we intend for a stable for any place will do to live in in sumber [summer]. Only it keeps of [off] the rain as they fall verry heavey at times and are generally acompanied with thunder. We cleared 5 acres and put in 1 1/2 acre of wheat and one of Indian corn, 1 1/2 of oats. The garden and potatos take up another acre. I sowed the wheat on the 2 of June and from that to it being shut was 7 weeks and one [on] the 6th of September we sheard it. We have 70 tons. Here is two scotch lads, Neighbours to us. They have reaped there crops of fall Wheat and they have thrashed 8 bushalls and its yeilds stook and bushels. Our Indian corn looks verry

well and is likely to be a verry good crop and likewise potatoes. And we have been well off for all sorts of vegetables such as Old England wont produce except in the []. The wont is seeds of different kinds are so bad to come at. Our oats are a heavy crop. They were sown on the 2 of July which you would think very late but vegetation is verry quick here. We have bushels of cucumber in our garden and great quantities of squash and mellons and pumpkins of an enormous size. We have had kidney beans from 10 to 12 inches long in the pod. We are verry much obliged to you for the seeds you sent for you cannot tell how usefull they were. If any persons are coming to America a few grass seeds would be verry usefull.

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If cousin Harper comes pray be as kind as to tell him to bring a small quantity of rapeseed. We think we have had a fine sumber [summer] here but the natives say that it has been a wet sumber [summer]. The weather here is verry regular for it generally is warm 3 or 4 days and then hot 3 or 4 days and then cooler. If Robert [Fieldon] has one wish to do better for the [] with respect to temporal things than he can in England and likewise a spirit to cross the Atlantic and do good to the souls of his fellows creatures he will come to Cannada. We have cleared [5.4] more land which we intend to sow with wheat at the season. We can keep as many cows as we please for they do verry well in the woods.