

Trent University Archives

Medd family fonds

Accession 81-001 Box 12 Folder 5

Letter: [John or William Thompson], Smith Creek or Port Hope, to an Aunt [in England], 31 January 1820

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, likewise is likewise, etc. The following symbol was changed to ease reading of the text: '&' changed to 'and'. Occasionally, commas and periods have been added to assist in clarifying the sentence structure. Square brackets [ ] indicate indecipherable text. The following is an example of a symbol which represents a measurement of currency: £ = pounds.

#### TRANSCRIPTION

Smith Creek or port hope new [ ] January 31 1820

Dear Aunt,

I have taken the opportunity of writing to you hoping this will find you all in good health as they leave me at present. Thank God for it, for my health is good and my spirit the same. I wrote a letter to my Mother dated in September which I hope you have seen before this. I likewise should be glad to receive a letter from you or any of my friends. When I wrote to my Mother I was in haste. I forgot every thing allmoste, but I am now my own Master. I left Mr. Thompson about the 20 Nov on good terms. I have been a [ ] about a [fortnight]. I am going for 18 Dollars a month: meat, washing and logings [lodgings] during the winter. I have drawn one Hundred acres of land this last week but I have to pay 4£ down and then 4£ at the year end and 4 more afterwarde for the deed for the land has risen near 7£ for 100 acres and it is double for two 100 acres but they give 50 acres for nothing. My uncle J. Ainley has drawn 100 acres near to mine. He got his on the old act by going up to York before the first of January. The new act took place at that time but land is given out here at this place now. Here is a township going to be [ ] this next summer joining to this. If any of my friends was to come they might close to us for we are at that side of the township. Please to let my Brother Joseph know if he does not come to me this next year, according to my [ ] he will be [ ], for I can earn more in four months in the winter than he can in all the year. I should be glad to see my Mother here with all the family but I dont expect she can come. If she could come she should want for nothing I could do for her, and her family would do better by the Blessings of God. I have got nothing to say that is fresh about

the country. Every thing is much the same as it was when I wrote before, we had [hot] sumber [summer] here last sumber [summer] but not verry dry as we have had. We have had a verry fine winter so far. It set in frost about 10th of December and is pleasant frosty weather yet. We have better than one foot thick of snow. It is fine sliding as we call it in this country for here is no waggons nor carts yous,d [used] here in winter. As soon as a little snow comes they start with sleges [sleds], sleights [sleighs], trains and cutters which are all different kinds of sleges, carriges. The first gentlemen in the country ride in cutters. They will go much faster than which carriges, for the faster they go the easier they go. It is common to see them trot when full loaded. You think we have sever [severe] weather or winter but a man may do with as few clothes here as in England.

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Only take care of the hands and feet, for when it is the most sever [severe] it is calm and clear and no wind nor [fog]. The sumber [summer] is hotter but not so hot to be unholosome. I am verry well pleas,d with the country and climate but not so well with the people for they are verry fond of dollars. Theft is not much practised here but petty actions which is next to thieving. But here is almost as many old country people as yankeys. They are people from the United States. Here is a great want of an English Blacksmith. It is the best trade in the country. Taylors is the next to Blacksmith. Any trade is better than in England if they will be steady, but here is a many that comes here with a little money that will shop in no place untill there money be done and here is amany that gets well fixt that drinks all they earn. Here is a Blacksmith shope here that keeps four or five hands at work but they scarce ever have two pounds of iron on hand. They spend their money as fast as they earn it. If a drunken man came to America he must get a new conduct before he comes, for there is no mending here. I would not persuade any one to come to America. Every one must please themselves, but no one can persuade me to come back again. If any of my friends that has [perused] my letters be not satisfied if they will write to me, I will give them any information with pleasure and truth all though I will not persuade any one. I should be glad to see any of my friends here that might do better, for I wish all friends well. If any person was to come out they might bring amany things to advantage. I suppose you know what to bring, but there is one thing apiece of Duck to make trowsers and smock on, or any wearing apparel. If any one was to write to me they might direct for me at Charles Fothergill Toronto on Smith Creek upper Canada. I shall expect Brother Joseph this next spring. Give my love to Grand Father and Grand Mother and all enquiring friends. Women are scarcer than men in this country so I would persuade them all to bring wives that can for here is amany more men comes out than women.

[Unsigned]

(Note: This letter was probably written by John or William Thompson as the hand appears to match that of other letters by the Thompsons located in 81-001 Box 12)

(Note: The following text may or may not refer to the author or the addressee as it is written upside down to the text of the letter in the original and is in a very faint hand):

[James [or Frances] Barry, No 7]  
Barkers Entry  
High Street