

LETTER (1843) TO EMMA SMITH RE: The House girls in Mansion House who became Plural Wives.

--original in the hands of the Bidamon family.
--from Clara M. Wasson and Elizabeth Wasson

Envelope:

Inlet, Ill.
March 15th

18³/₄

Mrs. Emma Smith.
Nauvoo.
Hancock Co.
Ills.

Letter:

~~Faint~~

Palestine, Ill. March. 12. 1843.
Sabbath Morn.

Dear Honored Relatives:

Pardon my intruding on your time & patience for a short time but the desire to hear from is so strong.

& it has been so very long since you have written I was almoste (sic) afraid you had forgotten us but I hope not

our feeling of simpathy (sic) were ~~xx~~ strongly deply (sic) united for you in your past x trials but now we rejoice with you in ~~xxxx~~ your honorable requittal and henceforth may you uninteruptedly enjoy that ~~xx~~ piece (sic) and happiness which you so richly merit ~~whaxxaxxzxhxzxhx~~ should ever be the prair (sic) of your unworthy niece.

& now Dear Friends I am shure (sic) there can be no reason why you should not make us a visit this spring do come and see us my impatience to see you is almoste without bounds as Mother can testify give my love to the children & all enquiring friends. I have heard of Elvira's /Elvira A. Cowles, md. Joseph Smith, 1843X, following marriage to Jonathan Holmes/ Marriage but her husbands name! did not hear ~~xx~~ but I hoep he is as good as herself she is ~~w~~ a worthy Girl and ~~xxxx~~ deserves /page 2/ to be happy give my love to her tell her I rejoice with her in their ~~x~~ happiness. we received a letter from our absent one some two week's since he was then in our native village & said he should be home in the course of six months I ~~xx~~ can hardly wait the time Uncle I wish you would write him to come back immediately I rather think he would mind you if he will not the rest of us. Dear Aunt your ~~xx~~ niece Miss Anna Stale is Married to a Mr. Joseph. ~~ixxaxz~~ Do _____ I think I have written enought for the present as Mother is to fiaish for me write soon excuse all errors

and believe me yours sincerely &c
Clara M Wasson

To Mr. & Mrs. Smith

My Dear ~~E~~ friends Eliza & Emily ~~Y~~Eliza and Emily Partridge,md. Joseph, 1843/ I didnot intend writing to you but Mother has laid her commands on me & she has left ~~xxx~~ this small space for me and of course her commands must be obeyed you know I think you might have written to me ere this but I donot know which is the moste to blame you or me but this I hope we shall not for the future be so negligent little Caroline ~~x~~ /Caroline Partridge, md. Anasa Lyman, 1844/ tell Eliza she wants to meet her & Emily & Julia very much and she sent sent (sic) Julia a ~~kzxx~~ kipsbody (sic?) Mr Farr & she would like to know whether she has received it or not Sister joins with me in love to you give my Respects to Mr P x. continued on 4 page/ page 3/

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Dear brother and Sister permit me to trespass on your time by a few remiark (sic) and enquireys (sic) I (sic) we have by chance heard you I (sic)X were liberated and now being free from Missoura thraldom we hope you are all well and will bestow a thought on us we are well at presant altho we have epe experianced the hardest winter by all odds that we ever saw since we have ben (sic) in this country cold wether (sic) comenced (sic) a bout the 9 of ___ and h we have hardly had one comfortabe (sic) day since it is now the 12 of March a cold one blusterink day) we have had word from Lorenzo a short time ago he was well and likewise brother Alvas famiely (sic) but w c/o (sic?) brother Davids famiely is sorely afflicted (sic) they have buried Orilla there oldest daughter) Sister Tryle and famiely have moved to the Chemieng she has nine children cI(sic) have not herd from Reuben a word (sinne ~~XXX~~ c I (sic) saw you)ix often think of you and wish the distance was not so great be twen (sic) our habetations (sic) and i mourn the absence of LD more and more every day) i fear i never shall be entirely reconciled to his abcence) I often think of Mrs Marks and, of her berievements and wish I could say some thing to comfort her) but I refer to her and all of you to the divine comfoter who is able to dispence comforts to all who need we-sh we want shall be verry glad if we can see you hear (sic) in the spring write to us soon except of our best respects ~~ix~~ your selves and dispence theme among you ~~xxx~~ folks not ~~xxxxxxx~~ g forgeting Grandmother and famiely Mrs Durphy /B.F. Johnson listed a Mrs. Durphee as a plural wife of Joseph/ Alvira and Miss Snow /Eliza R. Snow, md. Joseph, 1842/ the Patrig Ladies and Cathrin and her borthers all all so the Marks famiely this from your sister and friend

Elizabeth Wasson

To Mr and Mrs Smith /page 4/

give my ~~ix~~ love to the Mraks family and also to Miss Snow and to Cathrine Walker and sister and Brothers of course and but (sic) I must stop for Mother has called me to supper so good by

C.M.W.____

The Misses Partrige

Palatka, Va. March 17. 1848.

Dear Friend Rebecca

Excuse me for not writing sooner & pardon my intruding
on your time & patience for a short time
but the desire to hear from you is so strong
& it has been so very long since you
have written I was almost a year
you had forgotten me but I hope not
our feelings of sympathy were
acted for you in your past trials but
now we rejoice with you in your domestic
acquittal and therefore may you as gratefully
enjoy that peace and happiness which
you so richly merit shall ever be the proof
of your unworthy piece.

& your Dear Friends

I am sure there can be no reason why
you should not make us a visit either before
to come and see us my impatience to
see you is almost without bounds as I
can testify give my love to all the children
& all enquiring friends I have heard of
Elvina's Marriage but her husband's name I
did not hear but I hope he is as good as
himself she is a worthy Girl and deserves