

LETTER FROM MATILDA WELLS STREEPER¹ FROM NAUVOO, ILLINOIS

Addressed to: Simeon Stivers
Philadelphia
In the car[e] of Charles T Snyder
corner of Thirthteanth and Olav St.

Nauvoo March the 28the 1844

Dear Brother. I received your leter this morning I was quite regoist. I thought I was going to Here sumthing wunderful when I seen Hoo had wrote But when I Began to Rede I thought the old Harry Had Brok luse [.] But I sune Discoverd the secret and as I Had got Such a roing up about not riting I [thought I] Wood rite ameditle [immediately] for feer of a nother storm.

Well we are all well at present my self and children [.] however as for Streeper I dont [k]now How he is for I haf not hurd from him this for [four] wekes [.] he went down to Saint luas to work and he has not ritin to me cins but I am expecting a leter from him every day

Well you tel me you are all cuming out in the Spring [.] why it is Spring now and I think you are leving it very late to start for the wether is so fine and the Botes has bin runing ever cines [since] the first of the month. I think you had beter start suner [sooner] if you can [.] but I haf one recuist [request] to make with you all that is for [you] to du all your grumblin and grouling before you get here for I haf hurd so much of it this winter that I dont want to here eney more

you say I must Be at the landing and be redy for you [.] I wil not promis you that for surtan [certain] but I will if I can [.] and you will be welkum to such as I may haf but Sister Clark wants to no if we haf got eneything to eat out here [.] well you [k]now sum of the fokes say that I am very exravigent and will live on the best wen I can get it and I haf found a nuf to eat and good anuf tu So that you nead not be a frade [.] it is not good to think tu much about the eating part but it is well anuf to think a litl about it

and I wood advise you all to bring all you can with you [.] the report is that provins [provisions] will be very

scars here this summer [.] tha [they] say our nabers is trin [tryin] to starve ous [us] out but tha can not cum it [.] dont sel eneything that you can bring for it is a hard place to get things and dont depend on geting drygoods or housling goods on the rode for you can get them beter at home [.] and haf plenty of provisin Wen you start and lay in your groceries at Saint luas [.] pack your things as I did mine [.] I had not



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a thing broke but a glas lamp and that was my one [own] falt [.] get Sister jonson to pack all your crockry for She is a furst rate hand

I beleve that is all at present [.] give my love to all the brethren and sisters tho there didnt eney body send me eney [.] give my love to your grandmother and tel her I

expect to ce [see] her along with the rest [.] now I want to here from Sum of the rest for I haf rote this leter to you all for it is a cind [kind] of a truble for me to right as I am not very good hand at it as [or] I Wood haf riten ofner.

I want you to go to see lizabeth² and tel her I didnt think it was worth wile for me to anser her part of the leter for it appeared She had not got my last leter wen she rote but I think she mite haf rote more gentile [gentle] at eney rate [.] one think [thing] I dont want her to blame eneybody els with my falts. Brother Joseph has nothing to due with my leters or eney bodeys [.] If I did not requist hur to rite I beg pardin [.] I thank [unclear] as regards directin the leters [.] gust [just] send them to Nauvoo hilanois [.] we haf no carriers here nor numbers to our houses so we all go to the post ofis for the leters. So I Shal loock for hur to anser my leter before I write to hur agane [.] give hur my love and a mormons blesing and tel hur when she rights again I want hur to be in a better youmer [humor]. Josephene³ and lital Kate [h]ja[s] said aunt lib was a nasty thing for not sending them no word.

No more at present [.] I Stil remane your sister in the bonds of the new and everlasting covenant

[signed] Matilda Streeper

NOTES

1. Microfilm copy of letter is located in LDS Church Historian's Office, Archives Division. Paragraphs have been added to facilitate reading. Matilda Wells was born approximately 1815 in Pennsylvania. She married Wilkinson Streeper (born September 19, 1809 in Philadelphia) on July 10, 1834 in Philadelphia. On February 22, 1840 Matilda was baptized and confirmed a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Wilkinson also joined a few months later and in the year 1843 the family moved to Nauvoo, Illinois, where they remained until after the martyrdom of the Prophet Joseph Smith. On October 2, 1843, before leaving Philadelphia for Nauvoo, they were issued a recommend, which was an indication of their good standing in the Church wherever they went. That recommend is in the possession of Maurine Carr Ward, Hyrum, Utah.

2. Elizabeth (Lib) Streeper was Wilkinson Streeper's sister who lived in Philadelphia, but who did not join the LDS faith. She apparently was not pleased that Wilkinson and Matilda had moved away.

3. Josephine Streeper, about nine years old, and Kate Streeper, about two years old, were Matilda's daughters. They also had a son, William Henry Streeper, about seven years old at this time.