

(Spelling errors left intact from original document)

Wilkins Family Correspondence

Item 1 Steadman Ancestry

LETTERS WRITTEN BY CHARLES WILKIKS TO HIS MOTHER IN ENGLAND

South Cottonwood Ward Jan 12 1863

I once more take the pleasure of writing a few lines to you hoping it will find you as well as can be expected under the circumstances which you are in at present We are all well only the children a troubled a little with the whooping cough I expect by this time you are out of patience waiting to hear from us Elizabeth and me had intended writing to you before but we thought you would write to us when you received her letter We went to the post office a great many times and inquired for a letter but it got mislaid and was overlooked some way and I never got it until yesterday so you must bare with us for not writing before. Elizabeth arrived here the latter part of September pretty well worn down with the fatigue of the journey but she is got over that and got fat and plenty of applications for marriage all ready. I was sorry when I found you was not coming because I am confident you cannot be in a much worse hell than you are now I was also sorry when I heard of father's death I should very much liked to have seen him but I did not have the privilege but I have learned this much in my experience not to let unavoidable occurences make me unhappy but yet I do believe if he had come here a few years before he would be living yet but I know how he was he had not nerve and fortitude enough to leave that old blacksmith shop until he had hammered and blowed himself almost to death and the lord had suffered to be that he was so cornered up that it was about the only thing he could do or go into that disunion called union With all his weaknesses and failings I very much respected him and I am satisfied it will be allright with him We understand that it is the lords business to take care of his saints and it is the saints business to try and take care of themselves and every lawful effort and stratagem should be made to that end and purpose Dear mother I would be glad if you could come this season to the valley I don't know whether the emigration will be safe or not this season but the prophet will know I am satisfied of that Where is the individual that has his doubts whether mormonism is *true* or not I will put the question to myself do I no not for one moment I jest as much believe mormonism to be true as I believe there is a god A person that embraces the gospel of Jesus Christ or mormonism if you please and subject themselves to its laws are jest as shure of salvation as the sun will shine tomorrow well but says one but this brother don't do everything right neather does he say everything right and for this reason I don't

hardly know what to make of it I scarcely know whether it is true or not Now I here will ask a question is there such a thing as perfection to be found among imperfect beings let each one of us look at ourselves and I think we will find plenty of it right at home this is the reason why the lord has set in his church the various officers for the perfecting of his saints and the work of the ministry and the edifying of the body of Christ untill we all come into the unity of the faith Who cannot see that the prophecies are fulfilling as fast as time can bring it about And it behoves us as latterday— saints to be faithfull to our covenants that we might not share the same fate as the ungodly

Dear mother I should very much like to see you here this fall it don't take much to bring one individual accross the sea if there is half a chance don't mis it for nothing for if you do it will be a thorn in you as long as you live if there is aney of the Brethren that you are acquainted with that has considerable influence that can help you ask them to do so and when they comes home call on me and I will try and satisfy them for their help I know there is maney of the saints that are right around you that might of been here long ago if they had felt disposed to and I know they are not happy I could point them out and name them easey enough but I dont feel like doing so at present I felt sorry for Janes loosing his wife I know it makes things bad and look bad I feel for you all that are tied in that oppressive country I have been onfortunate since I have been here and have lost property enough to bring you all out here I have been poorer than aney of you but I am fixing up my famley a little comfortable now if I had the means at my command I whold freely devote it to fetching those of you out here that wish to come I dont know of aneything that whold give me more joy but it is not in my reach I must concludse please remember me to mother and father Drinkwater I wish them well and all the rest of them remember me to all the saints I am a well wisher to you all I cannot mention names so no more at present from your never deviating son and daughter
Charles and Ury Wilkins

Note; in a margin was written:

father and Mother Welch sends their best respects to you

South Cottonwood Ward

Great S.L.Co. Utah Territory July 2 186- (year illegible)

I take the present opportunity of answering your letter with some degree of plesure I don't know who I am writing to but I suppose all hands. Some one wrote but he did not put his signature at the bottom so I was left to guess. I feel so full this morning I scarcely know where to begin Dear mother I feel sorry to hear that you are so poorly But I don't know how I could expect much else under the circumstances. It appears by the letter I had your wishes to come here and that you need help I have thought a great deal about it Still I have nothing to regret about on my part concerning the matter. I have had to fight my way through the best I could being inexperienced in the management of the affairs of life. when I first went to Illinois I did not know how to make money If I had I could have made a thousand dollars just as easy as a hundred I saw that about the time I left there, and when I came to this country it seemed still more strange no money passing I felt rather bad seemed unfortunate had a great many losses one way and another and still have them once in a while two hundred dollars would hardly cover the loss I have had now within a year, I have a wife and five children and to undertake to support them by working out by the day would be a pretty hard concern I have rented land for some time but I thought I might just as well have land of my own as to have to pay rent for it and it takes means to get all these things. I have a nice little farm situated in a good place and the land is very level two years ago I had to build a house and last year I had to build a cellar and a grainery and this year I have to build a new stable and so you see there is always something to be done I have worked very hard and to a great disadvantage for want of means and that is the reason why I have been shaping things so that I would not have to work so much and for a man to make any kind of a start for himself he must be worth a 1000 dollars you may think perhaps I ought to have lots of _____ by me but the wants of a family are many and I am a man that likes to make my family comfortable Now to come to the point about your coming here the question is are you able to stand the journey you cannot form a correct idea of that hard task it is a tiresome concern unless you had plenty of money to pay out to wait on you for you are getting along in years I was in hopes that some of the elders that you had fed and sheltered would assist you a little but that is the way of it I know all about it and if ever you start on that journey you will see the weakness of human nature exhibited more than you ever have in your life before at least I did

it is everybody for himself and the good nan for us all, now about the means to *get* you here. I don't know as their will be aney trouble by another spring but what we can fix that allright for you. but I can tell you where you missed it that you did not come along when father and Elizabeth come away and I expect you feel it now I blame father for not coming some years ago when he could have done it but he was so chicken hearted and console himself by saying providence will open the way let me tell you providence as opened___ the way some years ago it needs some exertion and energy on our part

Dear mother I don't blame you aney but the man is the responsible party. now I never have seen the time yet but what their is a chance for men to free themselves from bondage and oppression if they will take it at the right time in ninety nine cases out of a hundred you will see young men in full vigor and strength of body they will waste their strength and their substance that god has blessed them with and then get married in the depths of poverty and then complain about it now I whold ask a question is god to blame for this I answer no we are all born in this world and it is our duty to make the best of it. if you want a farm go where it can be got if you want a cow get one if you want a horse get one I look at it like this their is plenty of room in this world and plenty of land and if it is not where we are we had better go where it is I consider the air is as free for me to breathe as aney other man and if I can find a portion of land onocupied it is as free for me as aney other man. Now do you sopose if I was in England with my present famley and know what I do that England whold hold me aney more than one year I tell you nay Jesus says save yourselves from this ontoward generation the man that rote your letter I don't know who he was said there their is a will their is a way that I fully belive but he said you was all in hell together and could not help yourselves now you see he did not believe is own words if he did he wold believe their wold be some way to get out

Dear mother write to me again as soon as you can we rode over and seen elizabeth last Sunday after we got your letter and we talked the matter over I dont know as I have aneything to say about her as she said she had rote to you aney more than they are well I will write to you again after a little I will stop a little elizabeth is jest come Dear mother if you can only manage to live to get here you can share with us and make yourself at home here and take all the plesure you can aneybody can live with Ury she is one of the most peacable woemen that ever lived try and make this out as well as you can I have not room for more I will write again soon

with our best respects to you all

Charles and Ury Wilkins and children

dont ferget to write

Feb 14 1866

South Cottonwood Ward

G.S.L, Co. Utah Terrt

Dear not her I take great pleasure at this time in writing to you again and I hope you are well and all the rest as I feel happy to say we are at present acsept Urys mother she as not been well for a long time. I expect you began to think I did not intend to write to you aney more and now I will tell you the reason, last year money was very plenty here and I did not know but what it might be the same now. but things took a change and instead of plenty it is very Scarce indeed. and I was not able to tell until about a week ago that I could do aneything for you. but as fortune wold have it I had a chance of doing a little hauling with my team it was a small Job and I went to work in good earnest and with good faith that it was the lord that had thrown it in my way to make the money this job had to be done in a herry so I went one Sunday while the rest of the folkes was at meeting and felt perfectly Justified in doing so under the circumstances so that is the way I got the money and the reason I did not write was because I had not the money and I did not know where it was coming from. and now I have not sent you as much as I wold like to have done but it is the best I can do so with a little good managment and econemey I guess you can make out to get along I live in hope of it at aney rate you will see upon this check or draught that you are to recive eight pounds you can show it to your precedent see that you get your rights and try and take care of yourself as much as possible I dont think I wold bother myself with much luggage but what is very usefull it will only serve to perplex you their is one thing I should be very glad if you could bring along and that is a faging hook one of the fussel make I don't want the largest size nor the smallest but a mediome sized one and please get one that has no cramp to it I like them much the best do that much for me if it dont give you to much trouble John will go and buy that for you I wish that the whole bach (batch) of you could come but it dont lay in my power to get you out If Johns oldest son was here and was a good hand With a team and wold be carefull he could soon help his father out here. I think if he was here and he whold harken to my council I believe I could put him in the way of it. you might say how it is that I cant do more. why I will tell you when I first come here their was not such a good chance as their is now and another thing I was a stranger to the country I did not know how to manage and I had no one to take me by the hand and show me and now I have quite a famley to

take care of and it keeps me kind of buisey we have five children and we will have another in a few weeks if we have good luck I dont know that I have much more to say now but I whold like if John whold write me a good long letter or aney of you and not look for me to write to them all the time they all have my best wishes Dear mother I whold like if you whold write to me as soon as you get this and let me know how things is prospering with you. Elizabeth and her husband was at our house last Sunday and I told her I was a going to send for you. They was all well she is expecting another little stranger in about a week. I should go over there and get her to write a few lines but I want you to get this as quick as posible for I know you will have no time to spare Their are five hundred teams going from the valley to the frontiers to bring along the saints and when you get their you enquire for the cotton-wood teams and teamsters for they all know me I am well acquainted with all of them give my best respects to all my friends and acquaintances the names are too newmerous to mention may god bless you all and try and bless yourselfs Your never diviating son and daughter

Charles and Ury Wilkins