



Martha Ann and William Jasper Harris family, ca. 1889, photograph by William Hill, Provo, Utah. Front row: Mary, Martha, William Jasper, Martha Ann, Sarah, and Zina. Back row: William, Joseph, Mercy, Hyrum, Lucy, Frank, and John. Courtesy of CHL.

letter, she wrote with some remorse, “Love to send them [her nephews and nieces] something more substantial than a kiss but they will have to take the will for the deed intill my Ship Came in.”<sup>51</sup>

The letters written during this decade reveal Joseph F. and Martha Ann’s deep affection and concern for each other. More tellingly, they attest to their unflinching determination to overcome obstacles in order to serve the Lord in any capacity or station in which they found themselves and to support and strengthen their cherished family relationships.

51. Martha Ann to Julina Smith, 21 December 1889.

# Letters

## JOSEPH F. TO MARTHA ANN, 21 MAY 1880

May 21<sup>st</sup> 1880<sup>1</sup>—  
S. L. City—  
Martha Ann Harris—<sup>2</sup>

My Dear Sister:—

It has been a long time since I wrote to you, and I have received several letters for which I am indebted to you. I hope however you will pardon me when I assure you it is not from any forgetfulness or lack of brotherly and friendly regard that I have neglected so long to write; but I have been waiting for a favorable opportunity to accomplish some other matters before I should write. I have never been able, as yet, to present your T. O.<sup>3</sup> accounts to the Council, because of the multitude of other matters which have occupied their attention. Besides I desire to present them at a time when I think nothing will prevent favorable action.

Perhaps I should have done it sooner [p. 2]<sup>4</sup> but to the best of my understanding I have had no right favorable chance. I now think I begin to see the way opening and am in hopes soon to be able to report to you favorably, which I will do as soon as I possibly can.

I suppose you are aware that Sarah has another little girl. Mary Jane<sup>5</sup> informed us that you had been notified. They are both doing exceedingly well. The baby—whom we call Minerva<sup>6</sup>—is growing nicely and as usual is a very pretty, sweet little one. The rest of the family are well. Aunt Thompson<sup>7</sup> and Mary Jane, ditto, so far as I have heard. Aunt T.<sup>8</sup> was here this morning. She is never real happy unless she can make herself uncomfortable for the

1. Joseph F. was forty-one, and Martha Ann was thirty-nine.
2. In addition to writing Martha Ann on this day, Joseph F. also wrote, “Emily d. Hepworth, Geo. Anderson, R. Maeser, Wm. Price, P. O. Hansen, Jacob Jacobsen, James I. Steel and Danl M. Bell.” Joseph F., journal, 21 May 1880.
3. Tithing Office.
4. Page 2 is on the reverse side of page 1.
5. Mary Jane Thompson, daughter of Mercy Rachel Fielding Thompson and Robert Blashell Thompson.
6. Minerva Smith was born to Sarah Ellen Richards on 30 April 1880. See biographical register, “Smith, Minerva.”
7. Mercy Rachel Fielding Thompson, sister of Mary Fielding.
8. Mercy Rachel Fielding Thompson.



welfare of somebody else. She is now trudging every where with a subscription list; soliciting subscriptions to help a poor family out from England She has raised nearly 100 \$<sup>9</sup>

JOSEPH F. TO MARTHA ANN, 4 JUNE 1880

S. L. City  
June 4<sup>th</sup> 1880

My Dear Sister  
Martha Ann.

Yours of May 31<sup>st</sup> came duly to hand. Pleased as ever to hear from you, and that you are all well. Sorry that Joseph's baby is not well, but hope he will be ere this.<sup>10</sup>

Little Willie Pierce,<sup>11</sup> died on Friday May 21<sup>st</sup> and was buried on the 22<sup>d</sup> John<sup>12</sup> went up to see them last Monday, and was also going but I could not well leave. Lucy<sup>13</sup> came and stayed with us several days—but she got very homesick for her grand mother, and went to Zinas<sup>14</sup> on Tuesday last. I have not seen Mother Smoot since she called with Lucy<sup>15</sup>—but heard she was going to Cottenwood<sup>16</sup> yesterday.

We are all well—and the children are growing nicely & going to school.

Your affectionate brother Jos. F. Smith

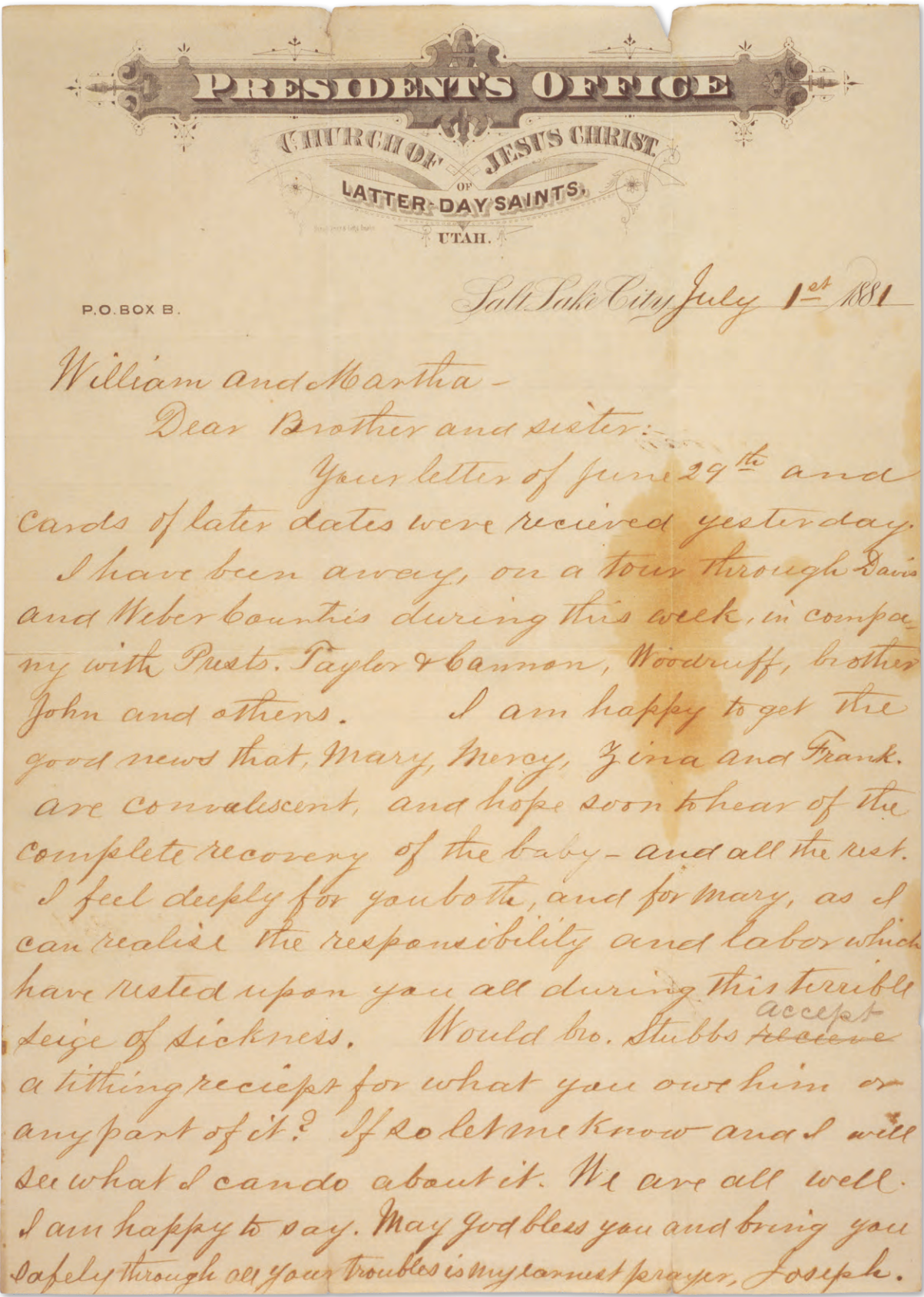
JOSEPH F. TO MARTHA ANN AND WILLIAM, 1 JULY 1881

Salt Lake City July 1<sup>st</sup> 1881<sup>17</sup>

William and Martha—  
Dear Brother and sister:—

Your letter of June 29<sup>th</sup> and cards of later dates were recieved yesterday.

9. The letter ends at the bottom of page 2. The rest of the letter is missing.  
10. Joseph Albert Harris Jr., son of Johanna Patten and Joseph Albert Harris, was Martha Ann's grandson.  
11. William Harvey Pierce, Joseph F. and Martha Ann's nephew. His death was reported in the local paper: "At Call's Fort, Box Elder County, on the 23d inst., by the effects of an accident, WILLIAM H., son of William and Jerusha Pierce, aged about 12 years." "Fatal Accident," *Deseret News*, 2 June 1880, 273. See biographical register, "Pierce, William Harvey."  
12. Possibly John Smith.  
13. Lucy Smith Harris, Martha Ann's sixth child, was ten years old at this time.  
14. Likely Zina Diantha Huntington, a plural wife of Brigham Young.  
15. Margaret Thompson McMeans and likely her granddaughter Lucina Smoot. See biographical register, "Smoot, Lucina."  
16. Located in the eastern part of Salt Lake Valley.  
17. Written on official letterhead of the Church from the Office of the President. Joseph F. was forty-two, and Martha Ann was forty.



Joseph F. to Martha Ann and William, 1 July 1881



I have been away, on a tour through Davis and Weber Counties<sup>18</sup> during this week, in company with Prests. Taylor & Cannon, Woodruff, brother John and others.<sup>19</sup> I am happy to get the good news that, Mary, Mercy, Zina and Frank.<sup>20</sup> are convalescent,<sup>21</sup> and hope soon to hear of the complete recovery of the baby—and all the rest.

I feel deeply for you both, and for Mary, as I can realise the responsibility and labor which have rested upon you all during this terrible seige of sickness.<sup>22</sup> Would bro. Stubbs<sup>23</sup> ~~reeeive~~ <accept><sup>24</sup> a tithing reciept for what you owe him or any part of it? If so let me know and I will see what I can do about it. We are all well. I am happy to say. May god bless you and bring you safely through all your troubles is my earnest prayer, Joseph.

JOSEPH F. TO MARTHA ANN, 28 JULY 1881

July 28<sup>th</sup><sup>25</sup>

My Dear Sister, Martha Ann

Your favor of yester day and Williams<sup>26</sup> Telegram, are duly rec<sup>d</sup>

I am indeed sorry for Joseph,<sup>27</sup> and was greatly surprised when rec<sup>d</sup> W<sup>ms</sup> Telegram yester day announcing the fact.

We do hope and pray that he may soon recover his health. The good spirit, I trust, suggests to me that he will get over it all right. I would give him freely of the iron we sent you, if you have not already exhausted it. Alcohol taken freely I believe to be an excellent remidy for that desease.<sup>28</sup> Still depricate works without faith, for I believe faith and the ordinance of anointing and laying on hands, of faithful men to be one of the most powerful agencies for the healing of the sick. Gods promise is that the prayer of faith shall save the [p. 2] sick, and the Lord shall

18. Davis County is immediately north of Salt Lake City, Salt Lake County, and Weber County is immediately north of Davis County.

19. This tour was reported in a Salt Lake City newspaper: “Presidents John Taylor and George Q. Cannon, Apostle Wilford Woodruff, Patriarch John Smith, and Elders George Reynolds and Geo. F. Gibbs, returned yesterday from a preaching tour through Davis and Weber Counties, upon which, with President Joseph F. Smith, who came back on Wednesday afternoon, they started last Saturday morning.” “The Presidents’ Tour,” *Deseret News*, 6 July 1881, 357. See biographical register, “Woodruff, Wilford.”

20. Martha Ann’s children at the time: Mary Emily Harris, Mercy Ann Harris, Zina Christine Harris, and Franklin Hill Harris.

21. *Convalescing* is most likely the word Joseph F. was trying to spell.

22. The “terrible siege of sickness” he mentions may be when Martha Ann was convalescing in bed for six months from a broken knee, followed by another eighteen months on crutches. See Carole Call King, “History of Martha Ann Smith Harris, 1841–1923” (unpublished manuscript in editors’ possession).

23. Likely Peter Stubbs. See Joseph F. to Martha Ann, 7 September 1874 (second letter), herein, note 390.

24. The insertion is written in pencil and may not be in Joseph F.’s handwriting.

25. Judging from the sequence of letters in the Joseph F. copybook in the CHL, the year is likely 1881.

26. William Jasper Harris.

27. Likely Joseph Albert, the second son of Martha Ann and William Jasper Harris.

28. In the early days of the Church, “while the general use of whiskey and liquor was contrary to the principle [of the Word of Wisdom], many Saints felt these beverages had redeeming medicinal qualities. It was drunk by some to help remedy the effects of cholera, and evidently was used as an alleviating cure for the effects of other sicknesses.” Paul H. Peterson, “An Historical Analysis of the Word of Wisdom” (master’s thesis, Brigham Young University, 1972), 24.



raise them up.”<sup>29</sup> You have been wonderfully blessed through all your afflictions, in losing none of your children. Still you have had a hard “row to hoe”<sup>30</sup> Some are blessed in one thing and some in another. Johns little “Birdie”<sup>31</sup> has had another attack of the desease, but is now thought <to> be slowly recovering. I am happy to say that at present we are all well, which is a great deal to say for one with such a family as I have. I pray God to continue his mercies unto all of us. I have not been able to send you an order as you desired, as yet, for the reason that the girls have been drawing heavily on me of late for sewing machines and one thing and another, which has draned me very closely. I hope soon to be able to send it. We will surely remember Joseph in our prayers. and all the rest of you I had Joseph prayed for yesterday in our prayer circle,<sup>32</sup> and I beseech God to hear our prayers. Remember me kindly to all. If M[~~illegible~~]i[~~illegible~~]h Holt<sup>33</sup> gets a divorce she can marry again. Affectionately Joseph

JOSEPH F. TO MARTHA ANN, 18 SEPTEMBER 1881

Sept. 18, 1881<sup>34</sup>

Dear Sister Martha Ann,

On Friday, 16th inst. Edna gave birth to a fine boy,<sup>35</sup> weighing 8lbs and 4 ounces. They are both, up to date doing very nicely. We are all usually well, and sincerely hope you and all ditto.

I am very sorry to have to report that Robert B.<sup>36</sup> has got the Typhus or Typhoid fever, and is very sick. Mary Jane is still very feeble and poor Aunt Thompson is nearly worn out. I sat up with them till 2 o’clock this morning. Edna is in bed. Julina getting ready for the same,<sup>37</sup> Sarah with nursing baby,<sup>38</sup> and no help—so we [*illegible*] do much [*illegible*] from home. [*illegible*]

With love, Joseph

29. See James 5:14–15.

30. An American idiom meaning a difficult task or situation to deal with.

31. Likely Hellen Jerusha Smith, eight-year-old daughter of John Smith. She died of diphtheria two days later, on 30 July. See “Died,” *Deseret News*, 3 August 1881, 432.

32. See D. Michael Quinn, “Latter-day Saint Prayer Circles,” *BYU Studies* 19, no. 1 (Fall 1978): 79–105. See also Joseph F. to Martha Ann, 21 June 1869, herein.

33. Likely refers to Maria Mabey, who married Albert Holt in 1862 in Salt Lake City. See biographical register, “Mabey, Maria.”

34. From Joseph F.’s letterpress copybooks; original not extant.

35. Albert Jesse Smith.

36. Unknown individual.

37. “In bed” was a euphemism for the time a woman was delivering a baby, including postbirth. “Julina getting ready for the same” refers to the upcoming birth of George Carlos. He was born on 14 October 1881, less than a month later.

38. Sarah is most likely nursing Minerva Smith, born 30 April 1880.





JOSEPH F. TO MARTHA ANN, 23 NOVEMBER 1881

Nov. 23<sup>d</sup> 81<sup>39</sup>

My Dear Sister Martha A. Harris

I herewith send you an order, (No. 1497) on the Provo Woollen factory<sup>40</sup> for \$50.00 I send you this on condition that you will get with it such things as you may need to clothe yourself and the little children, as far as possible, for the winter. And this is all I ask. I also send you order No. 775: for \$10.00 for shoes for yourself and little ones, so far as it will go. and as every little helps, if wisely used this may do you a little good in the face of the present and future cold weather.

We are all well, Julinas baby<sup>41</sup> is fretful, and cries a great deal, but seemes strong and healthy, and grows “like a weed.” Edna has got the best baby she ever had.<sup>42</sup> Hoping this with the inclosed orders, may find you and yours all well and as happy as possible. I am as ever your ~~your~~<affectionate> brother and friend in the bonds of kindred love, in which my family joine.

Jos. F. Smith

JOSEPH F. TO MARTHA ANN, 13 MARCH 1883

Salt Lake City, U.T. Mar. 13<sup>th</sup> 1883<sup>43</sup>

My Dear Sister  
Martha Ann

I meant to have written you on monday 5<sup>th</sup> inst. after returning from Provo,<sup>44</sup> but so many duties, cares and responsibilities have been pressing upon me of late that I could not, it seemed, get a chance. My little folks—that is, George C., Albert J. and Melissa,<sup>45</sup> were taken, about the time I was at Provo, with alarming symptoms of the croup, one after another, and little Albert is still in a very dangerous condition and none of them fully recovered. At the same time both of Sarahs babies<sup>46</sup> are suffering with colds, teathing and general uneasiness. So you see I have had enought to worry my mind with about home.

39. From Joseph F.’s letterpress copybooks; original not extant.

40. Opened in 1872, Provo Woolen Mills was one of Utah Territory’s largest and most successful nineteenth-century enterprises.

41. George Carlos Smith was born to Julina Lambson on 14 October 1881. See biographical register, “Smith, George Carlos.”

42. Albert Jesse Smith was born to Edna Lambson on 16 September 1881. See biographical register, “Smith, Albert Jesse.”

43. Written on official letterhead of the Church from the Office of the President. Joseph F. is forty-four, and Martha Ann was forty-one. Joseph F.’s journal for 1883 consists of a preprinted daily date book, “With Compliments of THE DESERET NEWS,” allowing only one-line entries for each day across two pages. For example, for this date, Joseph F. had room to note only, “Paid Taylor, Romney & Co. \$11.54 for [unknown word]. \$11.50 for 1000 bran. Paid [Carl Christian] Asmussen 75¢ for watch ring.” Joseph F., journal, 13 March 1883.

44. Joseph F. participated in the Provo Stake’s quarterly conference on 4 March 1883. See Joseph F., journal, 4 March 1883.

45. George Carlos Smith (seventeen months old), Albert Jesse Smith (eighteen months old), and Edna Melissa Smith (three years old). See biographical register, “Smith, Edna Melissa.”

46. Sarah Ellen Richards’s babies, Alice Smith and Minerva Smith, were born on 27 July 1882 and 30 April 1880, respectively. See biographical register, “Rich, Alice May” and “Smith, Minerva.”



I had to attend the Davis Conference on Saturday and sunday last.<sup>47</sup> and on my return, I received word from William W. Burton, Ogden that they buried their little Parley<sup>48</sup> on Saturday last—who died the day previously with croup. Aunt Thompson and Mary Jane<sup>49</sup> are in the same feeble condition and without help. They are so peculiar in their fancies and notions that it is with difficulty that they can get any [p. 2] help to remain long with them. They seeme to think their work is light, that any little girl, half smart could do it. but when it comes to waiting on two invalids, very peculiar in their notions, and hard to please, and do house work, and a hundrid and one other things required by a family, it is no small or triffling matter. I felt very much grieved at not being able to call on you on sunday, the 4<sup>th</sup> inst. Sarahs baby<sup>50</sup> not having had the measles—and as we already had so much sickness—and of a kind that we have had so much cause to dread, I did not think it wise for the little girls<sup>51</sup> to call—and as I had no time myself I could not. between meetings we were occupied every moment in council, except bearly time to get dinner,<sup>52</sup> and the conference meetings occupied the rest of the time. As you know I am a public servant, and absolutely have no time of my own. My folks feel this as much as any body, and my own children get as little of my company as many strangers. or in otherwords, I am so much from home, engaged in public duties, that comparative strangers get about as much of my compay as my own family, yet I am sure it is no where more welcome than at home. I cannot tell you my feelings about your circumstances. I often upbraid myself for my inability to make you as comfortable as my own family. Your life has been a hard one as was that of our ever dear and precious Mother.<sup>53</sup> Surely there is a noble reward awaiting you after your trials. Cheer up. If I live and prosper I shall not forget you. My heart is full, my eyes moist. I am ever truly Joseph F.—

JOSEPH F. TO MARTHA ANN, 27 MARCH 1883

Mar. 27<sup>th</sup> 83<sup>54</sup>

My Dear Sister, Martha Ann:—

47. The Davis Stake’s quarterly conference was held in Bountiful, Davis County, on 9–10 March 1883. See Joseph F., journal, 9–10 March 1883.

48. Parley Parson Burton, four-year-old son of Sarah Ann Fielding and William Burton, died on 8 March 1883. See biographical register, “Burton, Parley Parson.”

49. Mercy Rachel Fielding and Mary Jane Thompson.

50. Alice Smith was born on 27 July 1882.

51. Joseph F. noted, “The three little girls accompanied me.” Joseph F., journal, 4 March 1883. Sarah’s daughters were Leonora (born on 30 January 1871), Minerva (born on 30 April 1880), and Alice (born on 27 July 1882).

52. The midday meal was called “dinner,” and the later evening meal was called “supper.”

53. Mary Fielding.

54. From Joseph F.’s letterpress copybooks; original not extant.



Mar. 27<sup>th</sup> 83

Mar. 27.

My Dear Sister, Martha Ann—

Elder L. R. Marks

Shelby Farm, Covington,  
Mountain Co. Indiana,

Your favor of 17<sup>th</sup> inst. came duly to hand I now write you a few lines to say that the children are all better. We became very much alarmed about little Alice,<sup>55</sup> and also somewhat so about little Albert,<sup>56</sup> but the Lord has spared them this time and the seeme to be mending nicely.<sup>57</sup> Alice, and also somewhat so about little your letter, and let you know you are in time and the seeme to be mending nicely, but in the cold world, and pray for them. Mary Jane is sick again. Aunt Thompson. All is well at home, so far as I know was improving in health till Mary J. commenced conference is approaching, and we again, and now there is no telling how she wi[ll] be. My family are all very well at present. Mary Lupton<sup>59</sup> is with us till conference. W<sup>m</sup> W. Burton<sup>60</sup> called this morning, and went hom[el] this afternoon.<sup>61</sup> Kind regards to all the fam[il]y [and] friends. Your brother Jos. F. Smith called on missions. Your bro[ther], Jos. F. Smith

Joseph F. to Martha Ann, 27 March 1883, copy found in Joseph F.'s letterpress copybooks under that date.

Your favor of 17<sup>th</sup> inst. came duly to hand I now write you a few lines to say that the children are all better. We became very much alarmed about little Alice,<sup>55</sup> and also somewhat so about little Albert,<sup>56</sup> but the Lord has spared them this time and the seeme to be mending nicely.<sup>57</sup>

Mary Jane is sick again. Aunt Thompson<sup>58</sup> was improving in health till Mary J. commenced again, and now there is no telling how she wi[ll] be. My family are all very well at present Mary Lupton<sup>59</sup> is with us till conference. W<sup>m</sup> W. Burton<sup>60</sup> called this morning, and went hom[el] this afternoon.<sup>61</sup> Kind regards to all the fam[il]y [and] friends. Your brother Jos. F. Smith

55. Alice Smith. Joseph F. noted, "At home attending Alice, very bad" (Joseph F., journal, 18 March 1883) and "up till 2 am with my little Alice" (Joseph F., journal, 20 March 1883).
56. Albert Jesse Smith, who died on 25 August 1883. See Joseph F. to Martha Ann, 26 August 1883, herein.
57. Joseph F.'s journal highlights his concern during this period for his children's well-being. For example, he noted, "Children very sick. I am worried." Joseph F., journal, 17 March 1883.
58. Mary Jane Thompson and Mercy Rachel Fielding.
59. Mary Eliza Fielding, first cousin to Joseph F. and Martha Ann.
60. William W. Burrton, married Joseph F. and Martha Ann's cousins (Rachel Fielding, Ellen Fielding, and Sarah Ann Fielding).
61. Ogden, Weber County, Utah Territory.

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST

OF  
LATTER DAY SAINTS.

UTAH.

P. O. BOX B.

Salt Lake City, July 31<sup>st</sup> 1883

My Dear Sister Martha Ann.

Your card to Edna came to day. Edna is now out at the mouth of Little Cottonwood Canyon, with Melissa and Albert both of whom have the whooping cough quite badly, especially Melissa. She is having it very severe indeed, and I am afraid she has something troubling her besides the cough. Sarah E. and all her children are at Nephi, the baby has the cough badly, but is improving so they say. Sarah has been at Nephi over a week, Edna went to the Canyon yesterday. Aunt T. & M. J. are some better. I am very thankful your little ones & Joseph have escaped. Julia's little George is still quite bad. With kind love, Jos. F. Smith

Joseph F. to Martha Ann, 31 July 1883



JOSEPH F. TO MARTHA ANN, 31 JULY 1883

Salt Lake City July 31<sup>st</sup> 1883<sup>62</sup>

My Dear Sister Martha Ann.

Your card to Edna<sup>63</sup> came to day. Edna is now out at the mouth of Little Cottonwood Canyon,<sup>64</sup> with Melissa and Albert<sup>65</sup> both of whom have the whooping cough quite badley, especially Melissa, she is having it very severe indeed, and I am afraid she has something troubling her besides the cough. Sarah E. and all her children<sup>66</sup> are at Nephi,<sup>67</sup> the baby<sup>68</sup> has the cough badly but is improving so they say, Sarah has been at Nephi over a week,<sup>69</sup> Edna went to the Canyon yesterday. Aunt T. & M. J. are some better.<sup>70</sup> I am very thankful your little ones & Josephs<sup>71</sup> have escaped. Julinas little George<sup>72</sup> is still quite bad. With Kind love, Jos F. Smith

JOSEPH F. TO MARTHA ANN, 26 AUGUST 1883

Salt Lake City U.T. Aug. 26<sup>th</sup> 1883<sup>73</sup>

My Dear sister Martha Ann,

Once more, and now for the sixth time, by the inexorable will of an inscrutable providence we have been called upon to part with one of our dearest, most preacious treasures.<sup>74</sup>

This time the pitiless monster, death, has chosen for his “shining mark” our beautiful, inteligent, bright and lovely little Albert Jesse. His death occurred yesterday at 11.35 a.m. after an illness of about 13 days, most of which time I was absent from home, travelling thro’ the settlements north with Pres. Taylor. I arrived home on thursday morning having been sent for, and being honorably released by the President. I had the [p. 2] sorrowful pleasure of watching and waiting upon him, my darling boy, for 52 hours, with heart-felt prayers and scalding tears

62. Written on letterhead from the “President’s Office The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Utah P.O. Box B. Salt Lake City, \_\_\_\_\_ 188\_\_\_.”

63. Edna Lambson.

64. Little Cottonwood Canyon is located southeast of Salt Lake City. Joseph F. noted, “I took my team and conveyed Edna & children to Granite, and returned, very tired.” Joseph F., journal, 30 July 1883. He recorded a week later that he “went to cotton wood and got Edna & children.” Joseph F., journal, 6 August 1883.

65. Edna Melissa Smith and Albert Jesse Smith.

66. Sarah Ellen Richards had four children living at the time of this letter.

67. Nephi, Juab County, Utah, is located eighty-four miles from Salt Lake City.

68. Likely refers to Alice Smith, who was a year old at this time.

69. Joseph F., journal, 21 July 1883: “Went to Nephi, Sarah & Jos. R & baby accompanied me.” On 23 July he returned home but “left Sarah & children at Nephi.” They returned home on 7 August.

70. Mercy Rachel Fielding and Mary Jane Thompson.

71. Likely refers to Joseph Albert Harris.

72. Julina Lambson and George Carlos.

73. Written on letterhead from the “President’s Office The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints P.O. Box B.”

74. In his journal of the same date, Joseph F. wrote, “Buried my little Albert today. We are all overcome with grief & fatigue.” Joseph F., journal, 26 August 1883.

not a few, but the heavens were brass over our heads.<sup>75</sup> our crys and tears fell alike to the earth and all were buried this day with the lifeless, beautious form of our hearts’ treasure in the grave! and yet not all were buried, for still our cry would assend, why is it so? O. God why had it to be? and still our tears seak the earth to releave if not to bury our heart-aches in its feelingless bosom.

If for the sorrows of parting with our little, innocent ones in this world, we are to be rewarded with joy in the near or distant future, then may I not hope for a rich reward hereafter! Have I not laid up treasures in heaven? Sarah Ella, Mercy Josephine, Heber John, Alfred Jason, Rhoda Ann, and now Albert Jesse, all hold out their loving arms to “Papa,” from the other side.<sup>76</sup> What a happy meeting awaits me! and I trust, that in that ransomed [p. 3] throng no hearts nor hands will welcome me more warmly than those of Father, Mother, Hyrum, Mary, (whom we knew not) and Sarah, and Lovina,<sup>77</sup> and hosts of Kindred dead who being “dead yet live”, they having tasted of the living waters of christ, and died in Him. By far the greatest number are beyond the vail, the ties which draw us thither are fast becoming stronger than those which bind us here. Yet I look upon my little flocks now drawing upon me for their daily food, and none in store, but trusting in providence, and depending upon my mortal life for <their> help and protection ~~and~~ I breathe the earnest prayor, O! let me stay to battle with the ills and ups and downs of life yet a little longer in the world for their dear sakes. Were it not for this, now while my soul is cleansed by poignant grief I would rather go than stay. and yet I half feel that I am neither good enough to go or stay. It seemes not [p. 4]<sup>78</sup> always an easy task to acknowledge the hand of God in All things. yet I will do it. and my heart says, “tho’ He slay me yet will I trust in Him,”<sup>79</sup> for “The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away, blessed be the name of the Lord”.<sup>80</sup> I would rather have to pass through ~~the~~ the scenes of the past few days, harrowing as they have been, to the heart and soul, time and time again than never to have had my precious boy. Our aim can be no higher or nobler than to aspire to be worthy of an eternal union with, and possession of the pure, innocent trusting and loving little souls, such as those with whom God has blessed me only for ~~se~~ such short and happy periods of time. God help us to be worthy of them. Joseph<sup>81</sup>

75. Albert Jesse Smith, nearly two years old, succumbed to diphtheria on 25 August 1883. See “Died,” *Deseret News*, 29 August 1883, 512. In his journal that allowed for one-line entries only, Joseph F. recorded the events leading up to Albert’s death: Joseph F. returned home early from a speaking tour “on account of Albert” on Thursday, Joseph F., journal, 23 August 1883. Two days later on Saturday, he noted, “Had a little rest last night, up most of the night. My darling baby boy died at 11.35.” Joseph F., journal 25 August 1883. See also see Joseph F. to Martha Ann, 13 March 1883, herein.

76. Sarah Ella (died 11 February 1869), Mercy Josephine (died 6 June 1870), Heber John (died 3 March 1877), Alfred Jason (died 6 April 1878), Rhoda Ann (died 6 July 1879), and Albert Jesse (died 25 August 1883).

77. Hyrum Smith Jr., Mary Smith, Sarah Smith, and Lovina Smith were deceased children of Hyrum Smith and Jerusha Barden. Sarah and Lovina had both died in 1876.

78. This page is also written on official letterhead of the Church from the Office of the President, but the official heading has been crossed out.

79. See Job 13:15.

80. See Job 1:21.

81. In a letter written on the following day to W. W. Cluff, Joseph F. remarked, “I stood by the brave little fellow almost constantly for 52 hours, but had to give up to the inexorable will of that inscrutable providence which I suppose must remain a mistery in this life to most of us mortals.” Joseph F. to W. W. Cluff, 27 August 1883.

JOSEPH F. TO MARTHA ANN, 12 NOVEMBER 1883

Nov. 12<sup>th</sup> 1883<sup>82</sup>

My Dear Sister Martha Ann.

Your favor of the 11<sup>th</sup> is received I am pleased to hear of the improvement of your children, and those of Joan,<sup>83</sup> and I hope all of you will pull through safely.

My family are generally well, some of the children have slight colds, but nothing serious I trust. Tomorrow I shall be 45 if I live, nearly a year older than father was when taken home.<sup>84</sup>

Cousin Ina<sup>85</sup> is very high-toned, highly educated, well read and talented, she has out grown her fathers religion, and surpassed all her kindred, especially those in Utah. She is ~~ta~~ gifted in music [**p. 2**] and poetry, is a good writer, and resides in Oakland, California. I think a letter addressed Miss. Ina Pickett, Oakland Library Oakland, California would find her. If you write take paines with your hand and spelling, for she is somewhat critical. I think she would like to hear from you, but she will not answer my letters, I have written several times. I send you herewith General Tithing office order #701 on Provo Coôp-store for my birth day present, to get shoes and other necessary articles for you and the children. It calls for 25\$ in merchandise.<sup>86</sup>

You must excuse haste and give my love to the children There is a letter at my house for William<sup>87</sup> Your affectionate brother Joseph

JOSEPH F. TO MARTHA ANN, 22 NOVEMBER 1883

Nov. 22 83<sup>88</sup>

Dear Sister Martha Ann—  
Provo, Utah Co.  
Dear Sister:—

82. From Joseph F’s letterpress copybooks; original not extant.

83. Possibly refers to Martha Ann’s daughter-in-law Johanna Patten, wife of Joseph Albert Harris. Johanna and Joseph were the parents of two children at this time, Joseph Albert Jr. (four years old) and Frank Ernest (eight months old). See biographical register, “Patten, Johanna.”

84. Joseph F’s father, Hyrum Smith, was martyred in Carthage, Illinois, on 27 June 1844 and was forty-four years old at the time of his death.

85. Ina Coolbrith (née Josephine Donna Smith).

86. During the 1870s and 1880s, the General Tithing Office was used as a community accounting and exchange facility. When a Church member had paid more than what he owed in yearly tithing, the “accumulated credits could be transferred to others by a written order on the tithing office resembling in every aspect the modern check.” It appears that Joseph F. was drawing on credit he had with the Deseret Co-op for Martha Ann to purchase needed goods at the Provo store. Quotation from Leonard J. Arrington, *Great Basin Kingdom: An Economic History of the Latter-day Saints, 1830–1900* (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2005), 143–44.

87. William Jasper Harris.

88. From Joseph F’s letterpress copybooks; original not extant.



Yours of the 14th reached me on tuesday 20th inst. on my return from San Pete.<sup>89</sup> I have failed to notify you that on Monday Nov. 12th at 8.30p.m. my ninet[~~h~~]enth child and tenth son was born. both mother and boy have done well so far, for which I am very thankful. We have named him Robert, after our first american ancestor, Robert Smith.<sup>90</sup> He is a fine healthy little fellow, and weighed just 8lbs and 14oz. Hoping this will find you and yours well I am in haste Joseph

JOSEPH F. TO MARTHA ANN, 11 FEBRUARY 1884

Feb. 11<sup>st</sup> 1884<sup>91</sup>

My Dear Sister  
Martha Ann Harris.

I write to inform you that our tenth daughter<sup>92</sup> and twentieth child was born yesterday at 20 minutes to 2, O’clock—a.m. Julina and baby are comfortable and we are all once more happy. Of course mothers always think their babies are the prettiest, sweetest and best, but we all think we have never had a prettier one than this one <is> at the beginning.

Ednas last boy<sup>93</sup> is a regular bouncer, and a fine, noble little fellow, but he means to be taken notice of in this world, at least while he is or will be an attachee of the “brest-works”, he therefore manages to keep his mother busy, and sometimes all that branch of the family are not too many for him!

I think he (Robert)<sup>94</sup> is one of the very finest infantile specimens of the genus-homo.<sup>95</sup>

With love, Your brother Joseph F.—

JOSEPH F. TO MARTHA ANN, 1 AUGUST 1884

S. L. City Aug. 1<sup>st</sup> 1884<sup>96</sup>

My Dear Sister

Yours of 16<sup>th</sup> ult. was duly rec<sup>d</sup> Should have answered it right-away but as you desired to know who was coming to conference, I thought I would wait until I could send you word.

89. San Pete County, Utah.

90. Robert Smith was Joseph F’s and Martha Ann’s fourth-great-grandfather. He arrived in America as an indentured servant in 1638.

91. From Joseph F’s letterpress copybooks; original not extant. Joseph F. was forty-five, and Martha Ann was forty-two.

92. Julina Clarissa Smith was born to Julina Lambson on 10 February 1884. See biographical register, “Smith, Julina Clarissa.”


93. Edna Lambson gave birth to Robert Smith on 12 November 1883. See biographical register, “Smith, Robert.”

94. Reference to Robert Smith, as noted in note 94.

95. *Homo* is the genus that includes modern humans and their close relatives. In this context, Joseph F. meant *Homo sapiens*.

96. From Joseph F’s letterpress copybooks; original not extant.



And not until yesterday did I learn the conclusions reached. I learn that Pres. Taylor, and Cannon, F. M. Lyman, L. J. Nuttall<sup>97</sup> and some of their women folks and a few others, names not remembered—are going to take a trip into the north country, calling at Paris to attend the “Bear Lake” Conference on their way.<sup>98</sup> I was in hopes another of your friends would be invited, but other duties have been enjoined, so it will not be. Yours of 30<sup>th</sup> is just rec<sup>d</sup> Very sorry you were disappointed at the P. O.<sup>99</sup>— Hope it will not occur again—but you will see the reason. Was pleased to hear of the pleasant rec[] [*illegible word*] [ ]<sup>100</sup> [p. 2] by you on every hand. You must have enjoyed the company of Sr. Priscindia & Co. from Cache. Look out for Z. Y. W<sup>101</sup>—some folks’ tongues run at both ends, loose very active and rattling. I have no fears on this head, for where “nothing is concealed nothing can pop out”<sup>102</sup>—as “Margery” told her “cousin Joe”.<sup>103</sup> The best way to retain ones thoughts is to lock them up and lose the key—where it cannot be found, then one can treat friends and foes alike without exception.

In the fire is a good place to lose certain kinds of keys. Your friend has not seen your aunt Amanda<sup>104</sup> since her return, so I am informed. which is rather singular. You ask what would be thought of your stopping till Oct. I do not think there can be any objections, provided you feel like doing so. You are safe out there among your relatives, and I am sure your friend-s would be pleased to have you enjoy yourself however pleasing it would be to see you safe home again. Bp. L. W. Hardy died yesterday,<sup>105</sup> & Elder W. W. Taylor died today,<sup>106</sup> also Orson Whitney.<sup>107</sup> poor fellow, with him it is good ridance.<sup>108</sup> Your neighbors are all well. Sister Ed.<sup>109</sup> and children are in the canyon. God bless you & yours. With sincere regards I am truly [ ]<sup>110</sup>

97. President John Taylor, George Q. Cannon, Francis Marion Lyman, and Leonard John Nuttall. See biographical register, “Lyman, Francis Marion.”

98. Paris, Bear Lake County, Idaho, is the county seat and the site of the impressive Bear Lake Stake Tabernacle, built between 1884 and 1889.

99. Post office.

100. Bottom line missing.

101. Possibly Zina Presendia Young, wife of Thomas Williams. See biographical register, “Young, Zina Presendia.”

102. A popular saying found in the play *The Rough Diamond: A Comic Drama in One Act*. See John Baldwin Buckstone, *The Rough Diamond* (New York: Samuel French & Son, Publishers, 1847), 17. The play was first performed at the Royal Lyceum Theatre in London on Monday, 8 November 1847.

103. Two main characters in the play *The Rough Diamond*. In the original cast (1847), Margery was played by Frances “Fanny” Elizabeth Fitzwilliam, a British actress, and Cousin Joe was played by John Baldwin Buckstone, a British actor, playwright, and comedian who wrote 150 plays, including *The Rough Diamond*.

104. Possibly referring to Amanda Barnes, former plural wife of Joseph Smith. See biographical register, “Barnes, Amanda Melissa.”

105. Leonard Wilford Hardy died on 31 July 1884. See “From Friday’s Daily, August 1” and “Local News: Obsequies,” *Deseret News*, 6 August 1884, 457, 461. See also biographical register, “Hardy, Leonard Wilford.”

106. William Whittaker Taylor died on 1 August 1884. See “President William W. Taylor,” *Deseret News*, 13 August 1884, 470. See also biographical register, “Taylor, William Whittaker.”

107. Orson Kimball Whitney died on 31 July 1884. He was a Hawaiian missionary sent to the islands in 1854 at the same time Joseph F. was sent there. Joseph F. mentions him several times in his journals. See biographical register, “Whitney, Orson.”

108. His death notice noted, “Like all mortals, he had his faults and weaknesses. . . . His worst enemy was strong drink, and it finally overcame his iron constitution.” See “Death of a Pioneer,” *Deseret Evening News*, 1 August 1884, [3].

109. Likely refers to Edna Lambson.

110. Bottom line missing.



JOSEPH F. TO MARTHA ANN, 15 AUGUST 1884

S. L. City, Aug. 15—1884<sup>111</sup>

My Ever Dear Sister,

Your favor the 9<sup>th</sup> is just rec<sup>d</sup> and I hasten to drop you a line in return.

We are very sorry for your affliction with rheumatism, but hope sincerely that you are wholly relieved from it before now. We do pray for you and remember you and yours constantly before the Lord. Any thing in reason that we can do to help you or to comfort you you may confidently expect if you will only let us know, so far as we may fail to see. The Lord bless and heal you and preserve both you & yours and all who are dear to you we humbly pray.

The family and your friend’s are all well. S. E.<sup>112</sup> with six of the family are in the Canyon.<sup>113</sup> The weather has been much cooler for a week, since the showers a week ago. The nights are very pleasant but the days are warm. It is perhaps as well your friends was not there at the Con. [p. 2] as it could have been little more or less than an aggravation. We cannot say any thing against your remaining till cooler weather, altho’ we would be pleased to see you safely and soundly in our midst once more. When you get ready to come to the city if you will let us know we will assist you on your journey. We send herein (10\$) ten dollars for you which you can credit up on a/c. as you may need a little money for present necessities or for travelling expenses. Bro. E. Snow,<sup>114</sup> and others expect to leave the city about the latter part of this month for a visit to Colorado and the Sanjuan country<sup>115</sup> to be gon nearly a month, will return in time for conference all being well.<sup>116</sup> The Presidency are expected to return to Salt Lake about the 27<sup>th</sup> of this month.<sup>117</sup> You will have heard the sad news of the assassination of two Elders & two

111. From Joseph F.’s letterpress copybooks; original not extant.

112. Sarah Ellen Richards.

113. Most likely Little Cottonwood. See Joseph F. to Martha Ann, 31 July 1883, herein.

114. Erastus Fairbanks Snow. See biographical register, “Snow, Erastus Fairbanks.”

115. Latter-day Saint pioneers, after passing through Hole-in-the-Rock, established the community of Bluff in the spring of 1880, at which time San Juan County was created.

116. Joseph F. and his wife Edna, along with other leaders, left Utah Territory for a time so they could avoid federal prosecution. See Joseph Fielding Smith, *The Life of Joseph F. Smith: Sixth President of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints* (Salt Lake City, UT: Deseret Book, 1938), 131–33. Joseph F. recorded in his journal regarding this trip, “1884 Colorado, & Arizona trip. names of party, Jos. F. Smith & wife Edna & baby, E. Snow & wife, and John Morgan, accompanied to Emery Co. by bro. Andrew Jenson. / August 29th 1884 left Salt Lake city at 11 a.m. by D. & R. G. Ry.”

117. The First Presidency and a few other Church leaders were on a tour of the northern territories. See “Local News: A Tour in the North,” *Deseret News*, 13 August 1884, 465.





or more Saints in Tennessee.<sup>118</sup> It is too horrible to contemplate.<sup>119</sup> Excuse brevity, and believe me ever— [ ]<sup>120</sup>

JOSEPH F. TO MARTHA ANN, 23 AUGUST 1884

Salt Lake U.T. Aug. 23<sup>d</sup> 1884<sup>121</sup>

My Dear Sister  
Martha Ann Harris:—

Yours of the 18,<sup>th</sup> was duly received. I am sorry you do not enjoy good health. and that the boys are so often out of work, I hope things will change with them for the better, and permanently so.

We are all usually well. Aunt T. and M. J.<sup>122</sup> have just returned from Logan<sup>123</sup> where they have been doing Temple work for some of their dead Kindred.<sup>124</sup> M. J. is not very well.

I send you a list of names &c. for sister Beesley,<sup>125</sup> Son and daughter; which I hope will prove satisfactory.

You must excuse haste as I am sorely pressed for time. Your affectionate brother  
Jos. F. Smith

JOSEPH F. TO MARTHA ANN, 26 JANUARY 1885

Sacramento, Jan 26. 85<sup>126</sup>

My Dear Sister

118. On 10 August 1884, a mob attacked the home of Church member James Conder in Cane Creek, Tennessee. The mob wounded Conder’s wife and killed his son William Martin Conder, his stepson John Riley Hudson, and two missionaries, Elders John Henry Gibbs and William Shanks Berry. See “The Murdered Elders,” *Deseret News*, 20 August 1884, 481; and “An Atrocious Deed,” *Deseret News*, 20 August 1884, 488. This event came to be known as the Cane Creek Massacre. A week later, assistant mission president B. H. Roberts traveled in disguise to Tennessee to retrieve the missionaries’ bodies. See Marshall Wingfield, “Tennessee’s Mormon Massacre,” *Tennessee Historical Quarterly* 17 (March 1953): 19–36. See also biographical register, “Conder, William Martin,” “Hudson, John Riley,” “Gibbs, John Henry,” and “Berry, William Shanks.”

119. For a broader context, see Patrick Mason, *The Mormon Menace: Violence and Anti-Mormonism in the Postbellum South* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2011).

120. Bottom line of the letter is missing.

121. Written on official letterhead of the Church from the Office of the President.

122. Mercy Rachel Fielding and Mary Jane Thompson.

123. Logan, Cache County, Utah, is located about eighty-three miles northeast of Salt Lake City.

124. The Logan Temple was dedicated on 17 May 1884.

125. Possibly Mary Leese Miller, an elderly woman and the wife of John Beesley. She likely lived in Provo at the time. See biographical register, “Miller, Mary Leese.”

126. The original letter is found in the Joseph F. Smith family papers, Annie Clark Tanner Western Americana Collection, Special Collections Department, J. Willard Marriott Library, University of Utah, Salt Lake City.



Martha Ann:—

Months have come and gon since I saw or heard from you. I trust that time is dealing with you with a friendly hand. I am pleased to say that I am well, but too far from home to be entirely comfortable.<sup>127</sup> My lot seemes to be somewhat peculiar. I am apparently doomed to wander upon the earth for a season as a missionary, having the word of life, and the light of the Comforter only as my companion and guide. Still I might be more dependent upon the cold charity of the world, as yet my lot has fallen among friends good and true, and I have not lacked for any thing needful. When I write to you again I may be able to send you some good news. At least I hope so. Twenty one years ago next March, I first visited this city, I was then on my way to the Sandwich Islands for the 2<sup>d</sup> time.<sup>128</sup> I returned a little less than a year later, and met Levira<sup>129</sup> [p. 2] in San francisco, She returned with me to the Sierie Nevadas some 60 miles further east where we got snowed in for two or three days and she went back to San Francisco and I went home. This was the first break and downward move she made from which she never recovered.<sup>130</sup> And now, poor creature <I believe> she is an object of pitty. I expect to visit San Francisco in a few days, and will if possible call and see if Ina<sup>131</sup> has returned. I rather think she has not or I should have heard of it. I have been travelling since Aug. 29<sup>th</sup> when I left home with E. Snow and J. Morgan<sup>132</sup> to visit the Saints in Colorado New Mexico, Arizona and S. E. Utah.<sup>133</sup> Since then I have been to Oregon in the north and Mexico in the south and the Golden gate<sup>134</sup> in the west\_ and east almost to the Missouri.<sup>135</sup> I cannot boast of having <done> much good either to the world or myself still I am confident neither is any the worse for it. I heard thro’ the folks that Mary was married.<sup>136</sup> I wish her present and eternal happiness. I regret my absence from home at the time. Give my best love to her & to all the children and friends. I will write again & send you my address. Your Brother.

127. The “Mormon Underground” period had begun. At this point, Joseph F. was in Sacramento, Sacramento County, California, awaiting the arrival of his wife Julina and their infant daughter Julina Clarissa, who were to accompany him to the Sandwich Islands (Hawai’i). Joseph F. was sent to the Islands as a missionary in exile because of the federal prosecution.

128. Joseph F. wrote, “Wednesday Mar. 9th Arrived at Sacramento, took breakfast & dinner at ‘the Golden Eagle,’ Washed, changed, purchased hats & boots . . . One week from home.” Joseph F., journal, 9 March 1864.

129. Joseph F. refers to Levira Annette Clark Smith, his first wife. See introductory material to the 1860–69 chapter. See also Martha Ann to Joseph F., 12 June 1864; and Joseph F. to Martha Ann, 1 December 1868, herein.

130. Joseph F. and Levira’s divorce was finalized on 10 July 1869.

131. Ina Coolbrith (née Josephine Donna Smith). See Joseph F. to Martha Ann, 22 May 1885, herein.

132. Erastus Fairbanks Snow was an Apostle, and John Hamilton Morgan was in the Presidency of the Quorum of the Seventy. See biographical register, “Morgan, John Hamilton.”

133. See Joseph F. to Martha Ann, 15 August 1884, herein.

134. Connecting the Pacific Ocean and the San Francisco Bay, the Golden Gate is a deep channel. Later it was spanned by the famous bridge in 1937 that took its name.

135. This tour was to keep Church leaders out of Salt Lake City to avoid subpoena and arrest for practicing plural marriage. See Joseph F. to Martha Ann, 15 August 1884, herein.

136. Martha Ann’s daughter Mary Emily Harris married Walter Sutton Corbett on 12 November 1884 in Logan, Cache County, Utah Territory.

JOSEPH F. TO MARTHA ANN, 18 MARCH 1885

Private.  
P.O. 410 Honolulu, Oahu, S. I.<sup>137</sup>  
Mar. 18<sup>th</sup> 1885<sup>138</sup>

My Dear Sister Martha Ann,

I wrote you last at Sacramento,<sup>139</sup> you will not therefore be surprised to hear from me from these distant lands.<sup>140</sup> What I write you I shall expect will be kept to yourself. Also as to my whereabouts. It seemes I am in some demand in certain quarters.<sup>141</sup> I heard that Ray Davis, Johns precious son in law,<sup>142</sup> has been trying to get me indicted for living with and supporting my family, and has succeeded but not satisfied with that he has been trying to bring me into further trouble upon a rumor of my having married somebody—goodness only knows who—and for this purpose he gave to the Grand Inquisition the name of my niece Mary E.<sup>143</sup> in hopes they could wring something out of her, as he knew she had been for some time living with us. I am of the opinion that Rays Mother-in-law<sup>144</sup> is but little better than he, as Mary informed the “girls”<sup>145</sup> that she had quizz’d her very carefully about my family matters while she (Mary) was stopping with us. I say this much to you to put you on your guard, and that you may put others on their guard against associations with Ray Davis or his aforesaid Mother-in-law. I do not blame John—but I sympathise with him in his unfortunate associations and relations.

I am aware that the children sometimes visit at Johns & hence with his family whom I, at least, cannot trust. They do not have good feelings for me or mine, because they do not feel as I do, nor have they the same faith,<sup>146</sup> besides I have been kind to Melissa,<sup>147</sup> and it was thro’ me that she has been able to get a little support from John. For this some of them—and I do not know but John himself has feelings towards me. But I have only done my duty in this matter and I know it is right therefore I do not fear the consequences, nor would I change it if I could.

We have heard that Mary had been before the Inquisition (fallsly called a “Grant Jury”), where she had been quizzed in relation to my family affairs. I have no fears that she would intentionally give any evidence against me, but her inexperiance and the natural timidity one feels who is unacquainted with such matters, when brought in contact with such an infernal Machine as this inquisition is, makes possible results very uncertain. I am [p. 2] very sorry that

137. Joseph F. departed for Hawai’i with his wife Julina and their daughter Julina Clarissa in early February 1885 aboard the *Mariposa*.  
138. Joseph F. was forty-six, and Martha Ann was forty-three.  
139. See Joseph F. to Martha Ann, 26 January 1885, herein.  
140. The islands were still part of the Kingdom of Hawai’i at this time.  
141. Concerned about detection and arrest, Joseph F. marked the letter “Private” and asked Martha Ann to keep information about him, his family, and present location confidential.  
142. Ray Leroy Davis married Lucy Smith, daughter of John Smith. See biographical register, “Davis, Ray Leroy.”  
143. Martha Ann’s nineteen-year-old daughter, Mary Emily Harris, was examined before a grand jury regarding her relation to Joseph F. and his plural marriage relationships.  
144. Hellen Maria Fisher.  
145. Joseph F.’s wives.  
146. Joseph F.’s relationship with his half brother John was strained at this time by differing views about plural marriage.  
147. Probably Nancy Melissa Lemmon, John Smith’s plural wife with whom he did not live and apparently did not have a close relationship, owing in part to his first wife’s opposition to plural marriage. See Irene M. Bates and E. Gary Smith, *Lost Legacy: The Mormon Office of Presiding Patriarch* (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1996).

she was put to the annoyance of such an unsaught and unwelcome interview, and I hope also they had only their trouble for their pains, and that Mary came out first best. And tell her she has my confidence and love and blessing, that she will always remain true and faithful to her kindred and friends and to the Kingdom of God. I am sorry for Lucy<sup>148</sup> and for John and their unfortunate connection with that miserable, “cussed” little traitor Ray Davis. And if he does not get his deserts it will not be because of a lack of faith on my part.

I arrived in these lands on Feb—9<sup>th</sup> and the following day came out here—where I met our boy, Hyrum,<sup>149</sup> looking and feeling well, and seemingly as happy as he could be so far from home, and surrounded by so many circumstances foreign to his customs of youth. He is making very good progress in the study of the language, but feels the lack of early training in study. I am sure he will urge his brothers, and especialy the younger ones to apply their minds to study, every moment they can, so that when any of them are called to fill a mission they will be better prepared, and in a measure quallified to apply their minds to study. Hyrum is doing well and will improve himself—and be able to do good to others while on his mission. Altho’ he is not quite so young as I was when I first started out, he is in quite as good a position to learn. Robert<sup>150</sup> is also here, and is doing first rate so far. He has more confidence in himself than Hyrum has in himself, and therfore makes a little better showing in his study of the language. But when Hyrum gets down to study, and gains self relies he will not be far behind.

Aunt J.<sup>151</sup> is here with me, she takes great interest in the boys—and will look after their mending and making so far as needed while she remains. But we hope that our release may come soon, for we are needed at home.

When I heard that S. & E<sup>152</sup>—and all my little ones had been forced to leave home, in the dead of winter, to seek shelter among friends and neighbors, from the venom and bigotry of a mob of deputy marshals, and U. S. office-holders, I felt that somebody was about ready for the wrath of God.<sup>153</sup> Not that it is any worse for me and my [p. 3] family to suffer than for others, but of course it came nearer home and I could not but feel it all the keener.

It is no triffling matter for Mothers who are nursing babies and who have a number of other little helpless ones clinging to their skirts besides, to be driven from their comfortable homes in the most inclement season of the year—with no certain shelter or convenience for their protection and comfort to become a burden upon others. And as I live I will hold somebody responsible for this act of cruelty and barbarism before the judgement seat of God. And among the guilty ones I shall not forget that damnable little pup, Ray Davis, as one of the principals in this fiendish move. The least spark of manliness on their part would at least have suggested

148. Lucy Smith.  
149. Martha Ann’s son Hyrum Smith Harris was serving as a missionary in the Sandwich Islands at this time.  
150. Robert Blashel Thompson Taylor, son of Mary Jane Thompson.  
151. Julina Lambson.  
152. Sarah Ellen Richards and Edna Lambson.  
153. Joseph F. wrote about this incident in his journal on 12 February 1885: “Sam. Gilson and three other deputy marshals made a raid on my houses on Saturday, Feb. 7th. They found Aunt Melissa L. Smith and Albert J. Davis and subpoenaed them to appear before either commissioner McKay or the grand jury, which was not stated, but I suppose the grand jury. Bertie refused to give his name, he was subpoenaed as ‘John Doe,’ but up to the 12th he did not appear. Five of my children were at home at the time; three of Julina’s and one each of Sarah’s and Edna’s, whom the deputies interrogated but could get no information from them; they refusing to give their name, telling the marshals it was ‘none of their business.’ Sarah and Edna and the children had to leave home to avoid being subpoenaed. Where they went was not stated. This was but one of many raids. Well and long will they be remembered by those children who were home and forced to listen to the abuse and threats of the occasion.”



the propriety of waiting for my return home, before making a raid upon my defenseless family. I might not have been so healthy for some one—even if it had been only for myself, if I had been nearby. It is perhaps well that I was not.

But this is only vain talk—and I am getting sick of talk. I would like to see some lightning from the other side soon. I had the pleasure of reading Joseph A.’s<sup>154</sup> letter of Feb. 15<sup>th</sup> to Hyrum, and was pleased with the spirit of it. I would write to him and to Willie<sup>155</sup> and Mary, but I do not care to make myself so conspicuous just now. You can tell them all, that you have heard from me, and that I am well and as usual engaged in the duties of my calling as a messenger of the Gospel to the people of the Earth. I am as useful here at present as I could be any where. And when my labors will be more useful somewhere else I hope to be found there. With me it is the Kingdom of God or nothing. My only course is onward and, I trust, upward. I can yeald to nothing but the will and pleasure of the Almighty. It is my delight to serve the Lord and the people of God. The Lord has made me instrumental in bringing at least two souls into the church by baptism since my arrival on this Island. I hope others will follow. The language is coming back to me rapidly and I can speak quite fluently again in the native tongue, but not as I could once, and perhaps never can again as I could and did in my youth. But adding my experiance [p. 4] to or in the place of what I have forgotten in the language I do not know but I can do as much good now as I could when I was here before.

I have often thought of you and your children in the last six or seven months. It has been that long practically since I have been absent from home. My little Willard is now about four month old and I have scarcely seen him or his mother in that time.<sup>156</sup> And yet it is for no offence or crime that I have committed that I have been thus, in a manner, banished from my home and little ones.

Edna accompanied me from home in August and traveled with me for a month<sup>157</sup>—since then she and her little ones have been separated from me, so that I have scarcely seen them. And now my family have been scattered I hardly know where and I am thousands of miles away from them with out power to look after them. I look and long for my liberty once more, not but what I should be and am content to labor where I am sent and do all I can for good where ever I may be. Give my love to William and all the children. I pray for you all—and I trust I am remembered by them and you. Remember me kindly to bro. and sister Mecham. Tell them I am on a mission, preaching the Gospel, but you need not say where, for I am here to day, there tomorrow—and elsewhere the next day, and I may be in the Southern States or England, or Mexico next month, and you do not know where I am. Except that I maybe somewhere in the South.

J. sends love to you. Baby is well, and we would all be happy and enjoy ourselves if we only knew that our loved ones at home were safe and well. Hyrum will send this to you, and should you write send it to him, you know his address. It is at the top of this letter. I trust you can read this. I have scribbled hurriedly. I saw your last letter to Hyrum, but you did not mention any thing about Mary being dragged before the Inquisition.

154. Joseph Albert Harris.  
155. William Jasper Harris Jr.  
156. Willard Richards Smith was born to Sarah Ellen Richards on 20 November 1884. See biographical register, “Smith, Willard Richards.”  
157. See Joseph F. to Martha Ann, 15 August 1884, herein.

I hope all is well with you and the family and that God will bless you all. Tell Willie & Jos. and Frank, and John<sup>158</sup> that their Uncle expects them to be Men of honor and of truth, and faithful to the Cause of Zion<sup>159</sup> always. Hoping to see you all again some day I am your affectionate brother.

JOSEPH F. TO MARTHA ANN, 13 APRIL 1885

Apr. 13<sup>th</sup> 1885<sup>160</sup>

My Dear Sister  
Martha Ann.

I had the pleasure of reading a letter from you and some of the rest of the folks lately, in which mention was mad of Marys<sup>161</sup> appearance before the Grand Jury in Salt Lake City, I was somewhat worried about the matter for fear that she said something which could be used against me. I would like to know what she did say so that I could prepare myself before hand to meet my accusers. I do not suppose for a moment that she would intentionally “give me away”. But knowing her inexperience in such matters I am fearful she has unwittingly told about all they wanted to know— Of course what is done cannot be helped. And perhaps she is not aware of the fact that when she is again brought upon the witness stand she will have to face everything she has said to the Jury. and what she did say will be brought out in open court. I do not know whether you knew this or not, or if you did, whether you thought of it. Now I am going to ask you some questions—which were no doubt put to Mary in the Jury room—and I would like you to get her answers and [p. 2] let me know—sending your letter to H.<sup>162</sup> so that I can get it from him. In the first place they would ask her name and relationship. Then they would ask about as follows.

- Did you ever live at your uncles?
- 1 How long did you live there?
- 2 How many wives has he?
- 3 What are their names?
- 4 How many children have they?
- 5 What are the ages of the youngest ones?
- 6 Did he stay with them all, eat & sleep &c. &c?
- 7 Did you ever hear him call them his wives?
- 8 Did you ever hear him call the children his?
- 9 Is he the father of these children?
- 10 Does he support them?
- 11 What are the names of his children?

158. William Jasper Harris Jr., Joseph Albert Harris, Franklin Hill Harris, and John Fielding Harris.  
159. See Doctrine and Covenants 6:6; 11:6; 12:6; 21:7.  
160. Joseph F. did not specify where the letter was written, perhaps because he was in hiding.  
161. Mary Emily Harris. See Joseph F. to Martha Ann, 18 March 1885, herein.  
162. Hyrum Smith Harris, also serving as a missionary in Hawai’i at the time.



Now what I want to know is—what answers did M. make to each and all of these questions? It is very important to me to know just what answers were given for on the answers given the whole matter depends. and what other questions were asked her, and what her answers were. All that she did say was taken down by a reporter, and when she is brought into court, which she will be—~~should~~ when I am obliged, to meet the indictment against me, she will have it to [p. 3] face, and unless she meets it squarely—she will be liable to prosecution for perjury. Therefore I would like you to get the exact truth so far as possible. Again, when she went to the city did she not go to Johns?<sup>163</sup> Did she go to our house? Please tell me where she stopped while in the city and as far as possible who she talked with while there. How many days was she in the city? and any other particulars you can get. I am afraid I am asking of you something that will be quite a task, but it is very important that I should know, my liberty is at stake. I prefer not to go to the Pen.<sup>164</sup> if I can help it, and if I can learn what the evidence is upon which an indictment was found it may be in my power to advise M. for her good and mine too. But unless I can get the streight of these matters, I can do nothing but await the issue. I think it was Ray Davis who gave Ms—name to the Jury—and I think too that he got his information from Helen, at least in part.<sup>165</sup> Ray himself knows nothing only what he has heard. His testimony is worthless, no matter how bitter the little Villain may be, but M. was an inmate of my house, saw and knew for herself, and what they got out of her would be evidence, and will be used in the trial. Therefore she will be to them a very imp[p. 4]ortant witness in the case. I am very sorry to trouble you, with these matters— I do not want you to feel worried or get nervous about it. nor feel bad. I do not censure, M. nor blame her. I believe she would not intentionally do anything to hurt me, but she is the only witness they had in my case that knew anything personally. Hence my anxiety about what she did say.

I know you will do all you can for me, you might get Joseph A.<sup>166</sup> to assist you. My whereabouts must be kept to yourself— The enemy is on the alert they want to find somebody very badly, but so far they have failed. Do not trust any body—or they will trust somebody else, and so on, from one to another. These are serious matters. And in this instance they come home to yourself as well as to me. I have written twice to you and the same to John, but so far have received not a line from either of you. I am sorry for John—he has been nursing a viper<sup>167</sup> in his confidence who has struck at hime thro’ me—but I doubt if he can see it. If I had a creature about me that would betray him, I would feel like wringing its miserable neck— I may not be as good as I ought to be, but I am not a traitor to my kindred or friends. We are all well, and send love, We hope you are also well. From your Brother

163. John Smith.

164. Known as the “Pen,” the Utah Territorial Penitentiary was established in 1855 in what became known as the Sugar House Ward, an area about six miles south of Salt Lake City. The prison was federally operated by US Marshals beginning in 1871 and was enlarged in the 1880s to accommodate an increasing number of Latter-day Saints incarcerated there for violations of antipolygamy laws being enacted in Washington, DC.

165. Hellen Maria Fisher. See Joseph F. to Martha Ann, 18 March 1885, herein.

166. Joseph Albert Harris.

167. Likely refers to John Smith’s son-in-law Ray Davis or possibly to John’s wife Hellen Maria Fisher.



JOSEPH F. TO MARTHA ANN, 22 MAY 1885

Lanihuli,<sup>168</sup>  
May 22<sup>d</sup> 1885

My Dear Sister Martha Ann

I am pleased to acknowledge the receipt on the 8<sup>th</sup> inst. of yours of Apr. 19<sup>th</sup>, which was the first I have received from you since I left home. You are aware that I left home on the 29<sup>th</sup> of Aug. 1884. and, practically, I have not been home since.<sup>169</sup> And you are also no doubt aware that my folks also left home in the fore part of Feb. ’84, and were absent, knocking about, from pillar to post, for over eleven weeks, with their little ones, the mother of part of them being thousands of miles away and unable to do one thing to help them in their wanderings, and all on account of persecutions and some of our friendly (?) neighbors, and pretended friends.<sup>170</sup>

You may depend upon it I do not feel very lamb-like towards some of them for the officious part they have taken in some of these matters. But I can afford to wait the due course of God’s Judgement when just compensation shall be meted out to each, according to the intents and purposes of the heart and the acts performed. I do not censure Mary for I am satisfied that she would not intentionally do me a wrong, or injure me or mind.<sup>171</sup> I do not believe I have a <blood> relative in Utah who is so unnatural or heartless as to desire me evil, but I am [p. 2] sure the grand “inquisition” would get all they could out of her, and make the most possible of it. In my last I sent you some questions, which I supposed, had been put to her, which I desired you to return with the answers she gave so that I might see and judge for myself the extent of facts or information elicited from her. For, as you are aware, they will depend upon her as a witness in court, and will compell her to substantiate her evidence before the “inquisition”.

I have not seen anything in Hyrums letters,<sup>172</sup> which give any light on this subject, and I think he has shown me all his letters from you, and from Joseph and Mary.<sup>173</sup> But if you succeed in answering my last I shall be satisfied. I am sorry you have to continue in such straitened circumstances, but I hope and pray with all my heart that it will not be for always. I

168. Lanihuli was the name of the mission compound at the Church’s plantation in Lā’ie on the island of O’ahu. Joseph F. recommended to Brigham Young that the Saints gather at Lā’ie on the island of O’ahu in 1864, following the Walter Gibson crisis on Lāna’i. See Joseph F. to Martha Ann, 22 June 1864, herein. See also Riley M. Moffat, Fred E. Woods, and Jeffrey N. Walker, *Gathering to Lā’ie* (Lā’ie, HI: Jonathan Napela Center for Hawaiian and Pacific Island Studies, 2011), 73–75.

169. On 29 August 1884, Joseph F. departed from his home with his wife Edna and several other Church leaders on a tour of Colorado and other southern territories. The main purpose of the tour was to get Joseph F. and others away from Salt Lake City in order to avoid court subpoena or prosecution for plural marriage. Joseph F. was continually “on the underground,” or in exile, between 1884 and 1891. See Joseph F. to Martha Ann, 15 August 1884, herein, and section introduction.

170. Joseph F. laments that neighbors and “pretended” friends in Salt Lake City assisted federal officers in their prosecution against him. Sometimes Joseph F.’s wives and children, who remained in Salt Lake City, were compelled to leave their homes in order to avoid subpoena by federal marshals. See Joseph F. to Martha Ann, 18 March 1885, herein.

171. Mary Emily Harris. See Joseph F. to Martha Ann, 18 March 1885 and 13 April 1885, herein.

172. In a previous letter, Joseph F. instructed Martha Ann to enclose a letter to her son Hyrum Smith Harris, who was serving as a missionary in the Sandwich Islands at this time. See Joseph F. to Martha Ann, 13 April 1885, herein.

173. Joseph Albert Smith and Mary Emily Harris.





am also sorry that Willie has to work under-ground,<sup>174</sup> I hope he will be able to find—or “turn up” something better before long. I am very thankful that Mary has got so good a husband,<sup>175</sup> and they both have my blessing and my earnest prayers for their present and future prosperity and happiness.

I have received one letter from Hyrum, since we parted and have written to him twice. He was doing well. You must not mention where I have been. I expect to leave here soon, but I do not want my friends (?) who are so much interested in my whereabouts to be put to the trouble of keeping track of me. A hint to the wise is sufficient. We are all well, except Ina,<sup>176</sup> she is troubled with 8 big teeth all at once. She is some better. I called on Cousin Ina at her home in Cal.<sup>177</sup> but did not let her know my lodgings or my destination. She thought it very strange but I knew it was for the best. Remember me kindly to W<sup>m</sup><sup>178</sup> & believe me, yours,<sup>179</sup>

JOSEPH F. TO MARTHA ANN, 30 NOVEMBER 1885

Lanihuli Retreat<sup>180</sup>  
Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> 1885

My Dear Sister,

Your welcome favor of Oct. 6<sup>th</sup> came to hand Nov. 25<sup>th</sup>. It was a long time on the way, I received it from Hyrum.<sup>181</sup> He is on Hawaii the farthest Island to the South-east from here.<sup>182</sup> He wrote me quite a letter in “Native”, accompanying yours, and I see that he is improving very nicely in the language. I regret very much that he has not had better opportunities at School before coming on a mission, he feels the need of it now, and it would be a help to him beyond every other consideration. I hope the other boys—and girls too—may have greater advantages than he has had. I wish I could help you in regard to this matter. Your children should have a chance to go to School. Why should my poor—dear sister and her family ever be bound down by the strong cords of poverty and want? Perhaps it is all right, but it seems to me there is a screw loose some where. I do not think it is your fault. surely you have ever worked hard enough and have deserved better fare. I am sorry to say that I notice in Hyrum a lack of carefulness in regard to his clothes and means. but I hope as he gets older he will be more prudent. I was [p. 2] careful and economical to a fault, I never liked to make a bad

174. William Jasper Harris Jr. was probably working in mining, a major industry at the time. Brigham Young and some other Church leaders, however, typically discouraged mining in favor of agricultural work and other industries. William Harris Sr. was apparently involved in the discovery of the Mammoth Mine in the Tintic Mining District in northeastern Juab County, Utah Territory. See Carole Call King, “History of William Jasper Harris, 1841–1921” (paper presented at monthly meeting of the Daughters of Utah Pioneers, copy in the editors’ possession), 6.

175. Mary Emily Harris married Walter Sutton Corbett on 12 November 1884 in Logan, Cache County, Utah Territory.

176. Likely a nickname for Joseph F.’s one-year-old daughter, Julina Clarissa Smith, who was with him in Hawai‘i.

177. Ina Coolbrith (née Josephine Donna Smith) lived in San Francisco at this time.

178. William Jasper Harris.

179. The final paragraph is written upside down in the top margin of page 2. There is no signature.

180. See Joseph F. to Martha Ann, 22 May 1885, herein.

181. Hyrum Smith Harris.

182. The Hawaiian Islands were named after Hawai‘i, known as the Big Island.



trade—hence I never did much trading—preferring to stick to what I had—and make the best of it to risking the possibility of getting something worse in a trade. And I cannot bear wastefulness nor untidiness— Hyrum is not untidy in his appearance, but very much so in putting away and taking care of what he has. I have talked to him like a Father on the subject, and will do all I can to help him. He is a good boy—and my interest is no less for him because he is your son, I can assure you. I would be as proud of his success, as I could be if he was my own son. His beginning, altho’ a little older than I was, is as good as mine was, when I first came to these lands in my childhood. I hope he will improve his opportunities better than I did, and make a wiser and a better man of himself—by the help of the Lord. There seems to be no reason why he should not. I shall be as happy and pleased to see it, if my life is spared, as you will yourself, or any one else could. I was greatly pleased with one of Joseph A’s.<sup>183</sup> letters to Hyrum. The spirit of it was good and the mechanical part was almost faultless. I should have said that the Spirit of his letter was faultless, indeed excellent, and the chirography<sup>184</sup> was good. He might have improved it a little, grammatically, but otherwise

Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> 1885. We wish you a merry christmas and a happy new year. This leaves us all well—and in very good spirits. J<sup>185</sup> joins me in love to you all.<sup>186</sup>

JOSEPH F. TO MARTHA ANN, 11 FEBRUARY 1887

In Exile, Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> 1887<sup>187</sup>

My Very Dear Sister  
Martha Ann.

Your welcome favor of Jan. 9<sup>th</sup> is rec’d. I read your letter with more than ordinary interest, being exceedingly pleased and grateful for the kindness of Pres. A. O. Smoot<sup>188</sup> towards your children, in assisting them to school.

I scarcely need say I hope the children will fully appreciate their opportunity and their “Grandpa’s”<sup>189</sup> kindness towards them, and put in their very besticks to improve their minds, and lay a foundation for intelligence and usefulness in the future. I am sorry for Lucys<sup>190</sup> delicate health, and still pray that she may permanently recover. I hope Mary is all right by

183. Joseph Albert Harris.

184. Penmanship.

185. Julina Lambson.

186. Written upside down in the top margin of page 1.

187. Joseph F. was forty-eight, and Martha Ann was forty-five.

188. Abraham O. Smoot, president of the Utah Stake in Utah Valley.

189. Because Martha Ann’s mother-in-law was married to Abraham O. Smoot, he was considered to be a grandfather to Martha Ann’s children, even though they were not biologically related.

190. Lucy Smith Harris.



In Exile, Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> 1887

My Very Dear Sister  
Martha Ann.

Your welcome favor of Jan. 9<sup>th</sup> is recd. I read your letter with more than ordinary interest, being exceedingly pleased and grateful for the kindness of Pres. A. O. Smoot towards your children, in assisting them to school. I scarcely need say I hope the children will fully appreciate their opportunity and their "Grandpa's" kindness towards them, and put in their very best ticks to improve their minds, and lay a foundation for intelligence and usefulness in the future. I am sorry for Lucy's delicate health, and still pray that she may permanently recover. I hope Mary is all right by this, and that the baby soon got better of his ill effects of teething. My own health is much improved, but I am not so fleshy or strong yet as before my illness. J. and the children are well, and are now aiming to go home, some time this spring, the Lord willing. I do not care to have this known beforehand, for confidential purposes. So keep it to yourself. They may

Joseph F. to Martha Ann, 11 February 1887 (p. 1)

not be long after conference, here. The time comes on apace, and already I begin to feel a sense of loneliness creeping over me. But I shall not remain long, in all probability after J. and the Pets are gone.

My last word from home was cheering as to my family, but the prospects still look dark ahead, for some time to come, naturally speaking.

Am thankful that W<sup>m</sup> has employment, hope he may continue in health, and perfect fidelity to his own and family's interests and prosperity, Tell him for me, that in my heart I can bless him if he will stand firm by his grip upon the "iron rod," and never again give up. He had better die in the harness of sober industry, and honest toil, however hard, than in idleness, or worse. God bless him, if he will be true to his family and to God. And he will, and so will every good man. He must not let go his grip, he must be true to himself, to his employers, and to his principles. God bless and help him, is my earnest prayer. I send herewith an order for \$5 towards Frank's tuition, I will still expect the boys to fill out their terms of school. It will do when their present term is out, if I live and prosper. Excuse haste and brevity, but I must hasten, Ever yours, Jas.

Joseph F. to Martha Ann, 11 February 1887 (p. 2)



this, and that the baby soon got better of his ill-effects of teething.<sup>191</sup> My own health is much improved, but I am not so fleshy or strong yet as before my illness.

J. and the children<sup>192</sup> are well, and are now aiming to go home, some time this spring, the Lord willing. I do not care to have this known before hand, for prudential purposes. So keep it to yourself. They may [p. 2] not be long after Conference, here. The time comes on apace, and already I begin to feel a sense of loneliness creeping over me. But I shall not remain long—in all probability after J. and the Pets are gone.

My last word from home was cheering as to my family, but the prospects still look dark, ahead, for some time to come, naturally speaking.

Am thankful that W<sup>m</sup><sup>193</sup> has employment, hope he may continue in health, and perfect fidelity to his own and family's interests and prosperity. Tell him for me, that in my heart I can bless him if he will stand firm by his grip upon the "iron rod," and never again give up.<sup>194</sup> He had better die in the harness of sober industry, and honest toil, however hard, than in idleness, or worse. God bless him, if he will be true to his family and to God. And He will, and so will every good man. He must not let go his grip, he must be true to himself, to his employers, and to his principles, God bless and help him, is my earnest prayer. I send herewith an order for 5\$ towards Frankies<sup>195</sup> tuition, I will still expect the boys to fill out their terms of school. It will do when their present term is out, if I live and prosper. Excuse haste and brevity, but I must hasten, Ever Your bro. Jos.

MARTHA ANN TO JOSEPH F., 11 MARCH 1887

Ans'd Apr. 27 1887<sup>196</sup>

Provo Mar 11<sup>197</sup>

belovd brother your welcome favor of Feb the 11<sup>th</sup> came safely to hand last week & I thank you for writing to me for I am always glad to hear from you I was glad to hear you were some better & that you were all well as useuel. but it brought a heavey sence of care when you told me the news I can not blame you but O do bee care full there has so maney dreemed such ugly dreems about you I dremt one my self about you [*illegible strike-through*] but but my continual prayr for my dear berother is for his safty & I know youare in the hands of our Father in

191. Mary Emily Harris gave birth to Walter Harris Corbett on 28 October 1885, five days before Martha Ann wrote the letter to which Joseph F. is responding. Joseph F. likely refers to this baby here. See biographical register, "Corbett, Walter Harris."

192. Joseph F.'s wife Julina Lambson and their daughter Julina Clarissa had accompanied Joseph F. to Hawai'i. Another of Joseph and Julina's daughters, Donnette, arrived in Hawai'i with her aunt Melissa Davis in October 1886. While in Hawai'i, Julina gave birth to Elias Wesley Smith on 21 April 1886. See biographical register, "Smith, Elias Wesley."

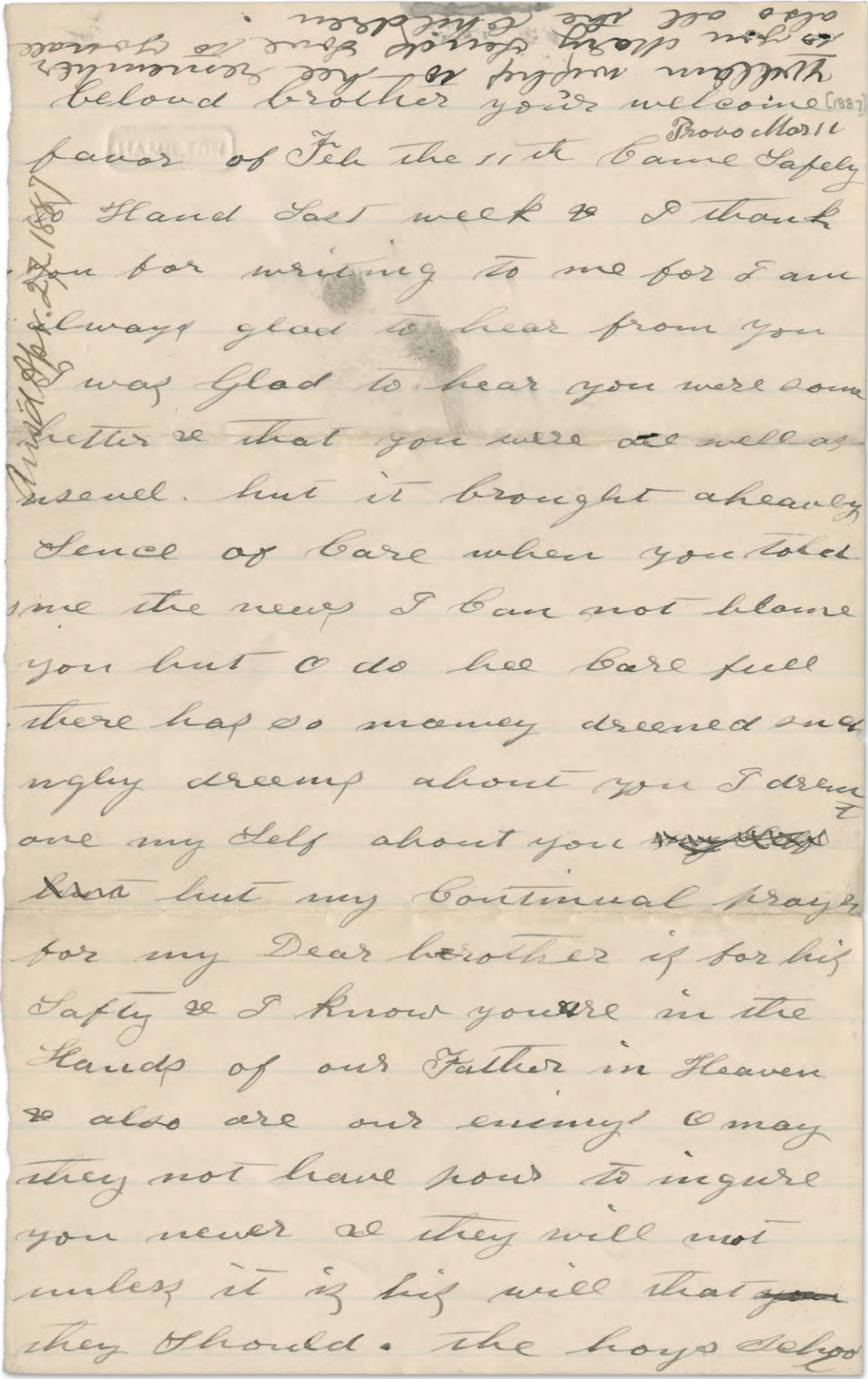
193. William Jasper Harris.

194. 1 Nephi 15:23–24.

195. Franklin Hill Harris.

196. Joseph F. wrote this in ink sideways in the top left margin of page 1.

197. "[1887]" was written in pencil by an unknown hand, most likely an archivist at the CHL, above "Provo Mar 11," which was written between the first and second lines of the letter by Martha Ann.



Martha Ann to Joseph F., 11 March 1887 (p. 1)



is out to day they have taken  
to farms on shares so they will  
have to postpone going to school  
now untill the fall term then  
they will be glad to continue  
their studies again. & thank  
you for your kind offer for  
the future I shall be  
so pleased to see you all again  
if ever I have that privilege  
again & I pray that I may  
& that with out indangering  
my beloved brother's safety  
O for happy days gone by  
will we ever see them again  
william has been out of work  
for over a month but he got  
a small job the other day  
that lasted fore days he is  
has taken cold in his head  
& is very deaf he gets the  
blues poor fellow there was  
not work work for him after  
the fall seeson was over at  
the store. you said you sent 5 dol  
ors in the letter but I did not  
see it pleas when you write  
you will explain how it is  
ever truly your loving sister

Mary lost her nice baby Hyrum was ill

Martha Ann to Joseph F., 11 March 1887 (p. 2)

Heaven & also are our enimys O may they not have pour to ingure you never & they will not unless it is his will that you they should. the boys school [p. 2] is out to day they have taken to farms on shares so they will have to postpone going to school now untill the fall term then they will be glad to continue thir studies again & many thanks for your kind offer in the future I shall be so pleased to see you all again if ever I have that privledge again & I prey that I may & that with out indangering my beloved brothers saftey O for hopiy days gon by O will we ever see them again william<sup>198</sup> has been out of work for over a month but he got a small job the other day that lasted fore days he is has taken cold in his head & is very deaf he gits the blues poor fellow there was not work work for him after the fall seeson was over at the store. you said you sent 5 dolors in the letter but I did not see it pleas when you write you will explain how it is ever truly your loving sister M A H

Mary lost her nice baby<sup>199</sup> Hyruum ["will see"]<sup>200</sup> you poticlars<sup>201</sup>

Willam wishes to bee remember to you Mary sends love to you all also all the children.<sup>202</sup>



Martha Ann to Joseph F., ca. May-June 1887 (envelope front and back)

198. William Jasper Harris.

199. Joseph Smith Corbett was born to Mary Emily Harris on 29 January 1887 and died two days later. See biographical register, "Corbett, Joseph Smith."

200. The two illegible words here could be "will see." Martha Ann's son Hyrum Smith Harris was serving in Hawai'i at the time.

201. Written sideways in the right margin of page 2.

202. Written upside down in the top margin of page 2.



MARTHA ANN TO JOSEPH F., CA. MAY-JUNE 1887

[Ca. May-June 1887]<sup>203</sup>

My dear brother<sup>204</sup> your wecome favor of <march> the 11 came to hand on the 20 of may it was detained some how I was so thankfull to hear from my my dear brother it always gives me pleasure to hear from you. I did not know whether to write to you any more or not until I hird from you again. I am thankfull to hear that you are as well as you say you are. I know your anxiety must be intence the mind being worried is wors than bodily suffering I find it so in my experience at least, & I know or at least I can imagin some little how you must feel away from your loved ones so long as you have been<sup>205</sup> I do not know whether I could bee as brave as Julina<sup>206</sup> was or not she sirtently is brave to do what she done I have not seen her yet but William went to the City<sup>207</sup> not long ago & he seen her also frank<sup>208</sup> called there they [p. 2] were better of thir coalds I recieved a short note from hir yester evning with the five dolars in it you sent for the school bill I will take it to brothir Maier<sup>209</sup> to day & I cincerly thank you for it untill I can do somethng more substancial for your kindness Franklin started to the park yester day to run the brick mashiene for brother Cook<sup>210</sup> of this town he is a good man & an honest one & will pay his hands Hyrum has worked for him he will tell you what kind of a man he is he sais he wishes he had Hyrum to run it for him he youst to run it for him when he was here he sais he never had nor would ask for any better boys to work for him than Hyrum & Frank was. he will give him too dolars & 50 <a> day & bourd for all sumer if he wants it. the boys hear at home will have thir hands full to keep things moving [p. 3] they have thirty achers f lucern<sup>211</sup> to tend to. & fore achors of wheet in three achors oats thre achors potatos one of squashes one corn thre of cain & some melons he sids<sup>212</sup> the lots here at home we will not have any fruit this year so we will have to b<u>y all we have of that. there is one or to trees that have aples on if the worms can bee kept of them the peaches & pears ar all killed, with the frost the worms

203. The envelope is addressed to "J. S. Speight, Esq. Honolulu Oahu H.I. Box 412" by an unknown person, not Martha Ann. Interestingly, the envelope was sent from Hawai'i. The two-dollar Hawaiian postal stamp features King David Kalākaua, with a Hawaiian postal mark stamped across it: "PAAUILO, HAWAII JUN 22." A second postal mark, "HONOLULU H.I. JUN 26 1887," suggests the day the letter arrived at the post office in Honolulu. Joseph F. noted on the cover in purple pencil that he had received the letter the following day: "Martha A. Harris Rec'd June 27 June-1887" The best explanation for the information on the envelope is that Martha Ann sent her letter to Hawai'i and someone, most likely a missionary, placed the letter into a new envelope addressed to "J. S. Speight, Esq."
204. Joseph F. was forty-eight, and Martha Ann was forty-six.
205. Martha Ann mentioned similar sentiments earlier in a letter to Joseph F.'s wife Julina in 1884: "I Sincerely hope you are all well & that you will have a merry Christmas as much so as you Could in the absence of your beloved Husband it must be Lonely for you all to have him don So Long I hope the <day> will soon bee here when he Can retourn to his home & family & friends." Martha Ann to Julina Lambson Smith, 21 December 1884.
206. Julina Lambson.
207. Salt Lake City.
208. Franklin Hill Harris.
209. Karl G. Maeser was the schoolmaster of Brigham Young Academy. See biographical register, "Maeser, Karl Gottfried."
210. Unknown individual. The 1880 US Census lists three Mr. Cooks living in Provo: Fredrick Cook (laborer), Luke Cook (butcher), and Thomas Cook (farmer). See biographical register, "Cook."
211. *Lucerne* is a term for alfalfa.
212. Seeds.

[CA. MAY-JUN 1887?]

of march<sup>204</sup> My Dear brother your wecome favor of the 11 came to hand on the 20 of may it was detained some how I was so thankfull to hear from my my Dear brother it always gives me pleasure to hear from you. I did not know whether to write to you any more or not untill I hird from you again. I am thankfull to hear that you are as well as you say you are. I know your anxiety must be in tence the mind being worried is wors than bodily suffering I find it so in my experience at least & I know or at least I can imagin some little how you must feel away from your Loved ones so Long as you have been I do not know whether I could bee as brave as Julina was or not she sirtently is brave to do what she done I have not seen her yet but William went to the City not long ago & he seen her also frank called there they

Martha Ann to Joseph F., ca. May-June 1887 (p. 1)



were better of this baldy I recieved a short note from him yester evening with the five dollars in it you sent for the school bill I will take it to brother Maizer to day & I sincerely thank you for it untill I can do something more substantial for you. Kindness Franklin started to the park yester day to run the break mashine for brother Cook of this town he is a good man & an honest one & will pay his hands Hyrum has worked for him he will tell you what kind of a man he is he says he wishes he had Hyrum to run it for him he goes to run it for him when he was here he says he never had nor would ask for any better boys to work for him than Hyrum & Frank may he will give him two dollars & 50<sup>cts</sup> a day & board for all summer if he wants it the boys hear at home will have their hands full to keep things moving

Martha Ann to Joseph F., ca. May-June 1887 (p. 2)

they have thirty acres of Lucerne to tend to. & four acres of wheat in three acres of alfalfa three acres of potatoes one of Squashes one Corn three of Cabbages & some melons he says the boys here at home we will not have any fruit this year so we will have to buy all we have of that there is one or two trees that have apples on if the worms can be kept off them the peaches & pears are all killed with the frost the worms are very bad this year but not quite as bad as they were last year. William is not in work but he tends to the garden & helps the boys all he can he is not very strong but he keeps doing all the time & if nothing happens to any of us & if all is well I think we will have enough to live on next winter & make it comfortable the boys have got the rock & sand hauled towards building they are going to haul the clay & make the Adobey

Martha Ann to Joseph F., ca. May-June 1887 (p. 3)





on the place Joseph it says he will help  
up some but he is buying him a place  
& his hands are some what tied at the  
present time the reason I mentioned the  
five dollars was becaus I feerd it might  
bee lost or you mad some mistake about  
it I hope you have not made to great  
a sacrifice to let me have it our family  
is all useley well Jessic is gaining  
her helth & strength her baby is a  
month old now he is a large fine  
bright looking fellow with nose like his  
Father lots of hair & so hungry. they have  
named him John ~~W~~ Earnest Joseph to  
oldest boys have had the mumps  
Albert is better but Little Frank is  
still under the weather I hope I will  
get to go to the City this summer I  
want to see Julina & the little strang  
baby she fetched home with her &  
all the rest of the Dear ones Aunt  
Thompson sent me a nice dress on  
my birth day for a present Joseph it  
gave me a jursy & mary gave me  
a book a black neck tie & a box of paper & env  
the children all join me in love to you & may the Lord bless you my dear broth  
if the constant prayer of your loving sister M A

Martha Ann to Joseph F., ca. May-June 1887 (p. 4)



are very bad this year but not quite as bad as they were last year. William is not in work but  
he tends to the gardin & helps the boys all he can he is not very strong but he keeps doing all  
the time & if nothing hapens to any of us & if all is well I think we will have enough to live on  
next winter & make is comfortable the boys have got the rock & land halled towards building  
they are going to hall the clay & make the adobys [p. 4] on the place Joseph A<sup>213</sup> says he will  
help us some but he is buying him a place & his hands are some what tied at the present time  
the reason I mencioned the five dolars was becaus I feerd it might bee lost or you mad some  
mistake about it I hope you have not made to great a sacrificse to let me have it our family is all  
useley well Jessie<sup>214</sup> is gainning her helth & strength her baby is a month old now he is a large  
fine bright looking fellow with nose like his Father lots of hair & so hungry. they hav named  
him John [illegible strike-through] Earnest<sup>215</sup> Joseph to oldest boys have had the mumps Albert  
is better but little Frank<sup>216</sup> is still under the weather I hope I will get to go to the City this  
summer I want to see Julina & the little strang baby she fetched home with hir<sup>217</sup> & all the rest  
of the Dear ones Aunt Thompson<sup>218</sup> sent me a nice dress on my birth day for a present Joseph  
A gave me a jursy<sup>219</sup> & mary<sup>220</sup> gave me a book a black neck tie & I a box of paper & env[ ] the  
children all join me in love to you & may the Lord bless you my dear broth[ ] is the constant  
prayr of your loving sister M A

213. Joseph Albert Harris.

214. Jessie Lena Freckleton, Martha Ann's daughter-in-law and wife of William Jasper Harris Jr. See biographical register, "Freckleton, Jessie Lena."

215. John Ernest Harris was born on 19 April 1886 according to family records and his gravestone. However, he was most likely born in 1887 based on the cancellation date on the envelope for this letter, Martha Ann's comments in this letter, and his age listed in the 1910, 1930, and 1940 US Census records. The discrepancy of John Ernest Harris's birth year is likely due to some confusion stemming from his being born at home and from inaccurate record keeping. In the letter Martha Ann seems to indicate that Julina has been away and is now back in Salt Lake City. Julina left Salt Lake City on 28 January 1885 and traveled with her husband from San Francisco to Hawai'i, where they would remain for the next two years. She returned to Salt Lake City in March of 1887. See Joseph F. to Martha Ann, 11 February 1887, herein, and biographical register, "Freckleton, Jessie Lena" and "Harris, John Ernest."

216. Joseph Albert Harris's sons Joseph Albert Harris Jr. and Frank Ernest Harris.

217. Elias Wesley Smith.

218. Mercy Rachel Fielding.

219. Jersey is a popular breed of small dairy cattle that originated in the channel island of Jersey.

220. Mary Emily Harris.