



November 25, 1854 Letter from Warren Ford Reynolds to Asa Reynolds

Letter written by Warren F. Reynolds at South Cottonwood, Utah on 25 November 1854 to his brother, Asa Reynolds in Fenton, Michigan. Dan Mahaney has original. Copied 30 July 1994 by Robert C. Mahaney. Copy sent by mail to Robert N. Reynolds on July 27, 2009. Transcribed into Segoe script with original spelling preserved and footnotes added by great-grandson Robert N. Reynolds August 3, 2009.

Saturday Nov 25th 54 G S L County

Dear Brother, I Received your letter dated Sept 10 and was glad to heare from you. You wish to know the reson of my not riting. I hav non onely fore the want of time & that is no reson atal for I have all the time that God ever allotted to man & this is without beginning or end you say. Bro Charles has transmitted his last to me. Wal there is one thing to comfourt you & me - he has paid the det of nature & you to rest with his Father & Mother & Sisters and little Edward Decator our second Childe - he died December 21, was 20 months old - but shal wee morne for them - no only the los of thare company for they are happy while you & I are miserabul & shal I say in hell - yes for so it is. You

may think I am insane...but I am not. We read that Satan was cast out of hevon & sunk to the loest hel & that he drew one third of the hostes of Heven & whare do wee finde him & his armee - right hear on this earth. What is his enss never to have a tabbernackle of flesh and bone like you & Ie have got. It is tiresom to converse in this kind of way when I have enough within my boosom to plaster one side of your barn & while I meditate on these things the vison of my mind expands and reaches east & west & branches out like the branches of a tree & ware I to giv away to my feelings I should set down &

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cry like a childe but when I meditate on the plan that God has instituted for the salvation & redemtion of man & of the glorius reserection thare is nothing that a man cannot surmount - he can sacrafise his property leave his friends go to the natons that ly in darkness and preach the gospil as many of the elders of isreal do for five years & beg his food & never redeve on peny for his labor - shurely this is one of the gratest mericals that a man can ask for to see scores & hundreds of the elders traversing the globe without scrip or purs just as the prophet sayed they would in the last days - but my dear Brother I cannot say much about these mater in this silant way of conversing but watch well the times & call on the Lord to giv you light for I kno you would give all you poses if you would know that Mormonism was the truth - that this was the plase for you - I can bare you my testimony as I hav before that it is true that God has a

Propet on the earth that he has restored the holy presthood to man for I hold a portion of it & I know that thare is virtue & power in it & I have ben blesed by it & have had power to heal the sick in my one family - Asa you wished me to rite more particlers abought Grandfather Saxton¹ he lives 60 miles from hear with Searls - has had poor health this fal - was getting better last weak - I do not think he will stand it long - has got along firt rate

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since he came hear - has never been with out money enough to by a drum - has got 60 or 70 dollars by him now - he keeps to cows - can get 50cts per pound for butter - he wanted me to pay transportation on the Hog - I did not comply & he gave him to Coartland Searls² - was caught in a trap & cited. Father Merrell family are all well - I find old york state people that youst to know you & Father & it is quite a treat - As me and you knew miller reddfeald bosley, abil lam & wife chet heath has backed out. Since I rout to you last wee have had a fine Daughter - we call her Edna Josephine - little Johnney says he is goin to uncle Asas ocherd to get sum apples - thare semes to be a vacancy in my fammaly by losing little eddy - he was a smar Child & wee hated to part with him - have you sent your fase to me yet - I sent Charles to news papers & a letter or too that he never got. I live 10 miles from the city - have got a good farme worth 1000 dollars & doing tolerable well - wheat is

1 The reference here is to Joseph Saxton the maternal grandfather of Edna Merrell. Saxton and his wife located with their daughter, Rebecca Ann Saxton (wife of Breed Searle) at Payson, Utah, sixty miles south of Warren F. Reynolds farm in South Cottonwood. Saxton died and was buried at Payson in 1862.

2 Son of Breed Searle and a grandson of Joseph Saxton.

worth to dollars, corn 1.75 oats 1.50 pork 25 per lb -
merchandise verry hy - shugar 35 cts coffee 50 tea good to
dollars and every think in proporton, right to me ofton &
donot wat for me for I must rite to wiliam & the rest so you
see I have a dubble porton but I rite asw ofton as I can - my
respects to all - tel Samuel & Amandy to
rite to me - no more at presant

Warren F. Reynolds to Asa³

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- 3 There is a lot to surmise in this letter which was written on 25 November 1854, two and one-half months after receiving one from Asa, wherein the older brother asks the younger, "Why haven't you written?" And Warren responds "no reson atol." - but then he proceeded to write two of his three pages bearing his testimony and justifying his belief in his newly revealed religion that had cost him so dearly that he suspected his brother might consider him "insane"!

The setting of the letter is just a few short months after their brother Charles died on 14 July 1854 at Rose, Michigan where Asa resided. We may believe that there were other written communications between Warren and members of his family in Michigan because of his reference to such in an earlier correspondence. So it is safe to believe that Warren had been informed of his brother Charles death - otherwise it would seem peculiar for Warren to take so long in responding to his close kin. In the fall of 1854 Asa was comfortably settled on two "eighties" on which he farmed and he was making both social and material progress as a County Supervisor and a State Legislator, while Warren was out in Utah on the frontier amongst his new religionists and working hard to "make ends meet."

It is easy to believe that Asa's earlier letter, that Warren received on 10 September 1854, may have offered at least a small challenge to his status and in particular to his religion. Without Asa's letter we will never know the full story. Of Asa's personal character we have an account published in the History of Oakland County, Michigan which cites that his religion was "liberal—never having affiliated with any denomination or church." This reference further described Asa as "a man of kindly and genial disposition, large hospitality, considerable intelligence, and unquestioned integrity." This from page 266 of History of Oakland County, Michigan. A descendant, Robert C. Mahaney wrote a short sketch of Asa's life in 1988 in which he stated that Asa was an active Mason and Baptist at the time of his death, which occurred at Fenton, Michigan in 1888 when Asa was 78. Mahaney also holds that our Reynolds family were active Baptists while living at Avon, New York.

Of Warren Ford Reynolds' character we now have his written testimony revealing the depth of his personal convictions that led him "to eat root little pig or die," to traverse half the American continent by horse and wagon, and to establish his "good farm" in the valley of the Great Salt Lake. Over the next forty-six years he would witness the birth of fourteen more children to carry out his legacy. As with "little Eddy" he would outlive his "little Johnny," whom he witnessed grow to be a man, and his "fine Daughter Edna Josephine." Of their deaths we know little, but this we do know - in 1889 he paid the ultimate penalty of prison for his religious beliefs rather than abandon his progeny which now number in the hundreds.

Letter written by Warren F. Reynolds on 25 Nov., 1854 from Salt Lake City
to his brother, Asa Reynolds in Fenton. Dan Mahaney has original. Copied
30 July, 1994.

Saturday Nov^r 25th 1854 J. S. H. County.

Dear Brother I Received your letter dated
Sept. 10. and was glad to hear from you you wish
to know the reason of my not writing I have none only
feel the want of time & that is no reason at all for I
have all the time that God ever allotted to man & that
is without beginning or end you say Bro Charles has
transmitted his last to me well there is one thing to com-
fort you & me he has paid the debt of nature & you
to rest with his Father & Mother & Sisters & little
Edward. Deceas'd our second Child he died Decem^r
21. was 22 months old. but shall we mourn for this
no only the loss of their company for they are
happy while you & I are miserabl & shall I say
in Hell yes for so it is you may think I am
insane but I am not we read that satan was cast out
of heaven & sunk to the bottom & that he driv-
one third of the hostes of Heaven & shall do
we finde him & his army right here on this
earth what is his ever mind to have a tabernacle
of flesh and bone like you & Ie have got it is
terrible to converse in this kind of a way when I have
enough within my bosom to plaster one side of
your burn & while I meditate on these things the
vision of my mind expands and reaches east & west
& branches out like the branches of a tree & would
I to give away to my feelings I should set down &

any like achilles but when I meditate on the plan
that God has instituted for the salvation & redemption
of man & of the glorious resurrection there is nothing
that a man cannot surmount he can sacrifice his pro-
perty leave his friends go to the nations that lay in
barrenness and preach the gospel as many of the
elders of israel do for five years & let his food
& needs receive on penny for his labor surely this
is one of the greatest mercies that a man can ask for to
see scores & hundreds of the elders traversing the
globe without scrip or purs just as the prophet
said they would in the latter days but my dear
Brother I cannot say much about these matters in this
sublime way of conversing but watch well the times &
eddl on the Lord to give you light for I know you
would give all you possess if you could know that
Mormonism was the truth that this was the place for
you I can bear you my testimony as I have before
that it is real that God has a Prophet on the
earth that he has restored the holy priesthood
to man for I hold a portion of it & I know that
there is virtue & power in it & I have been blessed
by it & have had power to heal the sick in my
own family. Also you wish me to write more particu-
larly about Grandfather Sarton he lives 60 miles from
head with Searles has had poor health this
fall was getting better last week I do not think
he will stand it long has got along first rate

since he come here has never been without
money, enough to buy a drum has got 80 or 90 dollars
by him now he keeps to cows can get 50, 60, per pound
for butter he wanted me to pay transportation on the
Hog I did not comply, & he gave him to Coartland
Lynch's was caught in a trap & ciled Nathier Weere all
family are all well I find yald yolk stobe people
that youst to know you & Father & it, is, quite alive
to me, my you know milles reddfeald bosley, abil
lam & wife chot heath has backed out since I
rode to you last wee have had a fine Daughter we
call her Emily Josephine little Tolmanoy, says he is goin
to uncle chas ocherid to get sum apples there seems to
be a vacancy in my famusnaly, by losing little eddy,
he was a smart child & wee had to part with him
have you sent your fare to me yet I sent departs
to mews papers & a letter or too that he never got
I live 10 miles from the city have got a good farne worth
1000 dollars & doing tolerable well wheat is worth 10 dollars
corn 1.75 cents 1.50 per 25 per lb merchandise vary by
shugar 25 ct coffee 50 cent good to dollars and every
thing in proportion, right to me of ten & donot wait
for me for I must ride to william & the rest so you
see I have a double portion but I will ride as often
as I can my respects to all tel Samuel & amandy, &
ride to me no more of present
Wasson W Reynolds to Asa Reynolds

NOTE: This little piece of Reynolds Family history was made possible by the research and generosity of Asa's descendant, Dr. Robert C. Mahaney of Holland, Michigan.

Robert N. Reynolds, Littleton, Colorado, 18 August 2009.