

Visit to David Crawford

Sinking Valley, Blain Co. Pa. June 13, 1865

My old friend Willard, As I have safely arrived at the domicile of our mutual friend David, in this land of our forefathers and in talking over and over the happy times of the past in Oregon and yourself and family being foremost in our minds, and now that we have just been to breakfast and David has gone to show his men about the day's work and his good wife is busily engaged in doing up the morning's work, I come to the conclusion that a few lines to you is due and here it is. We are well, and David is decidedly so, having a happy and worthy helpmate, a good home, plenty of all the comforts of life, a good farm in good order well stocked, in short nothing is wanting to make one happy in this world and to give a fair start for one in the next.

I have now paid a visit which I promised myself, should I ever come to the East. That was to see David, Crawford, our old friend. I have done so and don't so regret it. I came here on the 21st and will return to Washington City in the morning tomorrow. This is truly a beautiful section of country and takes its name from the fact that the water sinks in the valley from the surrounding mountains which is grand and picturesque indeed. Every house is provided with a spring near the house gushing from a limestone bed around the edge of the valley. I spent the day yesterday visiting the relatives of my two friends, David and his wife, and a pleasant time did we have I assure you. The settlement is an old one, the improvement substantial and most comfortable, the relatives of David and wife are so numerous they almost amount to a tribe. Altoona is the largest town about here and about 8 miles from here in on the Pacific RR and considered to be the best road in the United States and it was decidedly the best I have seen. In fact it's all nearly a town hereabouts, a mineral such as iron and in some localities lead and zinc is to be found. Lime, lumber, and coal attract the attention of the capitalists here which gives labor to the thousands engaged in the business. Grant seems to be the man here for president. This place is about 260 miles from Washington City. I left Washington at 8 am and arrived at 7 pm in Altoona. I have so far got along admirably well at Washington City with the business for which I have come ~~in~~. As to the news in general you will see in the papers, and the news in particular is about Crawford. Our trip from San Francisco was a pleasant one to New York and so on to Washington City and

since then I have succeeded well in becoming well acquainted with many of the able men of our nation/~~s~~. And the Indians are astonished as well as myself at the wonders we have seen and a trip from Oregon to California and along the coast to Panama and so on to New York thence through Philadelphia, Baltimore and dozens of life's important places should and will astonish any one who is not familiar with the geography of our country.

Crawford's three big brothers are here on a visit to see us and all of them are large fine men. Dave is a good example of them all. They are first rate men.

Can't say when I will be back. The government pays my expenses to and from Oregon. Give kind regards to Judge Grim, Duval and for your welfare our lasting good wishes.

Robert Newell