Winter Quarters

Ward, Maurine

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CHAPTER FIVE

Sleeping on the “soft side of a bord”

Giving birth in a wagon, amid crackling thunder, flashes of lightening, pelting rain, and wind strong enough to level tents, Maria Richards Wilcox delivered her first child. Her sister-in-law, Mary Richards, assisted her. Mary led a life of service to her husband’s family during her two-year sojourn at the Missouri. She sewed a tent from a wagon cover, helped to raise it, then set out the trunks and aired the soggy contents. With Wealthy, she continued her care of Maria and the baby, often sitting up all night. She rubbed Aunt Rhoda, washed for Uncle Levi’s family, and slept on the “soft side of a bord” when visitors took her bed. Mary tenderly cared for her sister-in-law and dear friend, Jane Snyder Richards, who was critically ill, and moved with her, first to Council Point, then across the river to Cutler’s Park, where members of Jane’s family were camped.

Journal Two
Wednesday, July 22, 1846, to Friday, August 28, 1846
John Taylor and Parley P. Pratt’s camp above Mosquito Creek, which Phinehas called Liberty Pole

... and how I used to wait upon him. said he had always thought more of me than any girl that ever left Eng and if it should ever be in his power to raise to me to be a queen. or to gain me honer in this church. he intended to do it. I thanked him for that promise. & also for what he had already done. he he said he had tould Samuel. to marry me because he new me to be a good Girl. and he intended to do more for me yet. than he ever had done. gave us some good instruction in regard to adoption. Said if he had 12 Daughters. he would give them to 12 good men alowing it should be their choice. then if these men should become 12 Kings he would have connection with 12 Kingdoms. and they would be under oblegations to Sostain him. said that those who were so over ancious to have their family all piled in one
little corner together would by & by find themselvys the lesser number. said
many other things wich time will not permit me to write aboute noon the
rain cleard away & we had a pleasent PM. did some sewing &C spent some
time with Amelia

Thursday 23th after breakfast went to work to make a tent. out of one
of our waggon covers & [illegible number] sheets. was sewing most of the day.

made a short viset with abigal Abott.

Friday 25th [sic] in the morn helped Mother about the work sewed some
loops on our tent. &C in the PM was writing in my journal. until 4 oclock.
then got supper. washed the dishes. made our beds. fixed the tent for the
night &C in the eve visited with aunt Rhoda.

Saturday 25th In the AM was sewing. in the PM was preparing our tent
to be raised. about 4 oclock she was hoisted. I then went to work & swept
off our green Earth Carpet. brought in some blocks to set our trunks upon.
helped to carry them in & fix them to sute my own notion. I then sat down
& thought my home although but a tent. appeared pleasent in the eve made
my bed in Wolter’s waggon. & lay down to take a sweet repose. about one
oclock I was aroused from my slumber. by the wind having blowed in our
sheet wich we had for a front door to our waggon. I arose and replaced it.
& lay down again. but was not permitted to lay long. the wind began to blow
most tremendous. the lightning eluminated the whole Country. had one of
the heavyest cracks of thunder that I ever heard. had to hold down the
sheet in the front of the waggon during the storm wich lasted more than an
houre. this took all the strent I could summons. having nothing on but my
night clothes. I got very wet. about the middle of the storm our tent blowed
down. & Wolter’s also. Maria was obliged to make her way throw the storm.
to the waggon. barefoot & in her night clothes. soon after she was taken very
Sick. & kept getting worse. I got Wolter to make a fire. & prepar’d for what
might follow. I attended upon her all the night.

Sunday 26th 25 minutes before 7 Maria gave birth to a fine little Daughter.
made her bed for her. & then left her in the care of her 2 mothers. & went
to examing our tent found it had tore from end to the other. sat down &
sewed it. the sun was very hot gave me severe head ace. about 10 oclock I
lay down & rested til 3. I then got up & washed me & sat down in Maria’s a
little wile. then father unloaded the waggon. raised the tent. & I helped him
all I could. this night slept in Wolters tent.

Monday 27th in the morn got breakfast. & washed the dises. baked a
pise of meet for father to take with him. went to work & regelated our boxes
so as to be comfortable for a bed stead. caryed out our crackers. & spred
them on a sheet to sun did the same by our straw. packed up Fathers
provisions to take with him. about 12 he started for Mount Pisgh. in the
PM I was working very hard. both at home and at Marias. in the eve felt
very tired. made up a bed in our tent and slept very comfortable.
Rhoda Richards, older sister of Phinehas Richards. J. Grant Stevenson collection.

Levi Richards, older brother of Phinehas Richards. J. Grant Stevenson collection.

Henry Phinehas Richards, younger brother of Samuel Whitney Richards. J. Grant Stevenson collection.

Maria Wealthy Richards Wilcox, sister of Samuel Whitney Richards. J. Grant Stevenson collection.
Tuesday 28th in the morn got breakfast, washed & scoured up all our tin ware. Baked a piece of meat. parched some barley Coffee &C fixed our tent so as to appear quite comfortable. about 3. in the PM. it began to rain very hard. beat through our tent and also Wolters. had to move Maria out of her bed. found about 2 quarts of water in the place were she lay I held an umbrella over her. while the storm lasted. wich was about an hour. & I then took a bed. wich had kept dry. & got her into it. fixed her as comfortable as I could. then came home and got supper. evening the weather still having the appearance of rain. at dark we lay down but did not undress. about 11 o'clock we was aroused from a sweet sleep by another tremendous storm blew down Wolters tent. was obliged to move Maria into ours. & put her in our bed. our bed clothes being most all wet Mother. or myself was obliged to sit up all night. so I prevailed with mother to lay down. and I took care of Maria & the babe. til Sunrise. I then lay down about 2 hours but could not sleep. got up & took breakfast & did up the work. went & helped Malinda to fix the tent sewed it in several places. then we & Mother Williams raised it. I then spred out every thing I could find. wet to dry. about 4 in the PM Mother got a man to carry Maria back to her own tent. I then got her supper for her. then came home & made our bed an sat down & wrote a little while in my journal. then took supper & retired.

Thursday 30th In the morn got up. felt first rate got breakfast & went to went to washing. about 11 o'clock Bro P P Pratt called to see us. was on his way to England. past some jokes with him about seeing my Husband. said he should not have thought that I had got a husband. Mother told him that I was her Daughter. Daughter. said he was very sorry for he should have liked to have had me for a daughter himself &C &C finished washing about noon. then went to take a hat to Bro Horns [Joseph Horne]. but did not find them at home. Bro P P P came in as soon as I got there had another short visit with him. called to see Sister Willey & met Bro Little. called also to see Bro Okaleys folks then came home & prepared for an approaching storm. in the eve Uncle Willard and Bro Little came to see us. had quite a good visit with them about 11 they left to go to their lodging. as soon as they was gone. the wind & rain. began to beat upon us. blew down Wolters tent & broke the ridge pole and one of the end poles. had to bring Maria again into our tent. as soon as that was done. Uncle W & Bro L again returned. & stayed all night with Us. the wind ceased to blow in about one hour. but the rain continued most of the night. I lay down on the soft side of a bord & slept for 2 hours & ½.

Friday 31th about daybreak Bro L[ittle] went & got us a little stove & made us a fire. I then got breakfast. Bro L and Uncle W. took breakfast then the former bade us good bye. and started together with Bros. Taylor. [Orson] Hyde. & [Parley P.] Pratt. on there mission. Eastward. went by way of the Mo River. the AM was very lowery. but it cleared away about noon so as to give us a chance to dry our clothes. in the PM was waiting on Maria writing
in my journal. knitting &C had the head ace. very hard got Uncle W to lay hands upon me. he gave me a good blessing. Prayad also for my Husband. his wellfare. prosperity. & safe retorn. at night made our bed on the ground and had a good rest. all night

Saturday February [August] First did the work so as to give mother a chance to go braiding. in the PM. Aunt Rhoda sent for me to come and rub her. found her in much pain. rubbed her from head. to foot. got her some warm drink. & toast. at eve made her bed for her. also Aunt Sarahs. about ½ past 9 Bro Benson and Goodel [Isaac N. Goodale]. came & stayed all night with us. the former made a good prayer. after he rose from his knees. said the Spirit of the Lord was under our tent. and he knew it. and what was that. the Spirit of peace and Love. Mother & I gave them our bed and we spred a quilt on the soft side of a bord and slept there

Sunday 2th in the morn helped mother do the work and at ½ 10 oclock went to meeting. Bro G A Smith called to see us. and informed us of the death of Hyrum Spencer. at meeting. Preached to us first & gave us some good instructions was followed by Bro Benson who did the same. had a firstrate meeting. in the PM went with Melinda Wood to see Bro King’s little sick Child. came home & enjoyed a good viset with aunt Rhoda in the eve was writing in my journal. this day the weather was very worm.

Monday 3th in the morn got breakfast. did up the work. & went to washing. washed a dress & some other things for aunt Rhoda and a vest for Uncle Levi. together with our own washing. finished about 2 in the PM. the wether was very worm and after washing myself I lay down & rested. then fouled my clothes. got supper &C in the eve had a sweet visit with aunt Rhoda.

Tuesday 4th after breakfast went to ironing. ironed 3 shirts for Uncle Levi. also the things I had washed for aunt Rhoda. in the PM took care of Maria. & the babe [Cynthia Maria Wilcox]. awile then Aunt Rhoda. being sick. she sent for me to come & rub her with some spirits. I did so. also made her bed and Aunt Sariahs also.

Wednesday 5th In the morn baked 3 loafs of bread for Uncle Levis folks. & one for our selves. helped mother do the work. & assisted Uncle Levis folks to prep air for their departure to the other side of the River. the weather was very hot. myself rather unwell. 7

Thursday 6th got breakfast & did up the work. then went to help aunt Rhoda. about ½ past 9. recievied her blessing and a promise that she would pray for me & my Companion. and bid her good bye. together with Uncle Levis folks. came home & swept our tent. washed myself. and sat down to sew. made me a touel wich was presented to me by aunt Rhoda. did some patching &C. in the eve took a walk with Melinda Wood. came home & went to bed. but the misskateos haveing taken possesion of our tent we was [not] permited to sleep all night.
Friday 7th helped mother get breakfast. after which she went to see Danial Spencers folks they being sick. after doing up the work. I sat down to writing in my journal. then wrote one page in a letter to my Father. the weather was very hot. all day eve got supper. made the beds &C was kept awake most all night by the misskateos

Saturday 8th morn got up early & got breakfast before Mother got up. washed the dishes made a dutch Chese. baked 3 loaves of bread. swept the tent washed the my self & sat down to sew. through the day the weather was very hot. the eve quite pleasant. night had a good rest

Sunday 9th morn got breakfast did up the work. washed & drest myself. then took a walk down between 2 bluffs. found a shade and kneelt down and oferd up a prayer to the Lord. retorned home and wrote a few verces. as a memorial. of the birthday of my companion. then filled up the letter I had commenced to write to my Father the weather was hotter today than I had ever felt it before this season. the eve was pleasant night was kept awake again by the miskateos.

Monday 10th in the morn helped about the work. AM was writing in my journal the weather very hot. in the PM did some sewing for mother. washed some dishes for sister Stevens and assisted her to pack up for a removal. while doing this Bro [Edwin D.] Woolly’s Camp came in. & camped close by us. after I got through I went to see them. spent the eve with Ellen. had a very pleasant Chat with her

Tuesday 11th In the morn helped get breakfast. & washed the dishes. then went with Melinda Wood into the woods to get some Grapes. went by way of the cold spring. about 2 miles East. to get a young Girl to go with us. spent some time in the woods. found the grapes very scarce. got about 3 quarts & arived home at ½ past one in the PM then washed me & got dinner and did some sewing for mother. got supper & spent the eve at Bro Woollys. this day. the weather was more comfortable

Wednesday 12th morning helped get breakfast. and did up the work in the AM Ellen Wilding came to see me. went with her to see Bro [William] Felshews folks. & spent the AM with them. came home and got dinner. & did up the work. PM was writing in my journal. did some sewing for mother. the weather was very Pleasant.

Thursay 13th morning got breakfast. and did up the work. AM made mother a cap. PMCommenced to braid & braided 3 yards for a beginning. the first I ever braided. this PM Wolter arived back from Mount Pisgah. eve Ellen Wilding. came to see me.

Friday 14th in the morn got breakfast. washed the dishes. swept the tent &C then went to writing in journal. PM went to see Bro Woolley folks. stayed there about 2 hours combed Ellens hair for her. & assisted her to fit a dress. While doing this father arived home from Mount Pisgah and I returned to
see him. had been 18 days on the journey was well but tired. after this Braided 2 yards of straw this was a very Pleasent day.

Saturday 15\textsuperscript{th} in the morn assisted mother about getting Breakfast, and did up the work. Braided another yard of straw. in the PM made me an apron. and did some other sewing. Ellen came to see me had a good visit in the waggon with her and Melinda Wood. the [weather] still very Pleasent.

Saturday 16\textsuperscript{th} in the morn, helped mother do the work. recieved an invetation from Sister [Elizabeth Price] Bentley to take a ride with her to Councel Point. got permision to take Melida Wood with me. about 10 in the AM Bro [William] Price [Jr.] came and waited upon us to the Carriage. it was a beautifull morn. we had a pleasent ride. the distance was about 5 miles we went into the woods & got quite a number of grapes. came back to sister Bs. tent & made a little viset we then came home. Bro [Richard] B[entley] came with us & carried our grapes for us stayed an made us quite a little viset about 6 in the eve Bro Franklin’s waggon came in sight. on the top of a large bluff.\textsuperscript{9} I went & picked over some grapes & put them to cook then went to meet Jane. meet with her very sick also little Wealthy [Lovisa Richards]. & Elizabeth [McFate Richards]. brought them into our tent and got supper for them. after supper I made Janes bed for her & Father assisted her to get back to the waggon. after washing the dishes. and doing what was nessasry to be done. I went & sat down and talked with Jane about 1 houre then retired. never was I more rejoiced to meet with a friend than I was to meet with Sister Jane, although it greived me to the heart to see her. & her child. so much afflicted. I tould her if it was her wish. it was my intention to take care of her. til she got better and that that was the desire & request of my Samuel. she seemd very gratefull and willing to accept my offer. we talked over many of the scens that had past during our absance from each other. rejoiced in each others wellfare. & sympathised with each other sorrows. exprest many a wish for the wellfare of our companions &C &C this night I slept alone in Fathers waggon.

Monday 17\textsuperscript{th} helped do the work. in the morn. then went washing. had 2 weeks wash. washed a few things for Jane and Wealthy. did most all of it alone ’twas a pleasant day felt pretty well

Tuesday 18\textsuperscript{th} a gloomy morn got breakfast. did up the work &C it then commenced to rain & rained most of the day. I sat in our waggon with J[ane] & worked on a garment for Philo [Farnsworth] spent the day very pleasently was well

Wednesday 19\textsuperscript{th} in the morn assisted Mother to do the Work. then Ironed in the PM finished making P[hilo] Garment. and commenced to write a letter to my Husband. the weather more comfortable myself pretty well.

Thursday 20\textsuperscript{th} assisted about the work at home also at Wolters. whose family were all sick in the PM I went with Jane [to] her waggon while there
she was taken very sick and was obliged to remain she lay on Salley's bed while Philo and myself cleaned out the waggon. I washed it, helped replace the chests, made her bed as comfortable as possible and got her on to it. got her some supper &c stayed with her all night.

Friday 21th was very busy all day, attending to Wolters, sick folks also to Jane & Wealthy who was very sick. staid with them that night got up with Jane 7 times.

Saturday 22th attended upon Jane & W the former continued worse all the time we doctored her with such things as we thought best for her was very sick all night. got up with her 9 times.

Sunday 23th remained waiting on Jane who was so much worse that we almost despaired of life. evening Bro Brigham & Heber called to see her and administered to her & W promising that they should recover. spoke many comforting words to us both said they were glad. that I was with Jane to take care of her. advised me to remain with her I asked them to pray I might enjoy health, to which they replied that I should not get sick said I would hold them to their promise watched with Jane all night.

Monday 24th still attending on Sister Jane who was still very sick in the PM Uncle Willard came to see us. spoke many comforting words to us both and promised to be a father to us. laid hands on Jane & W. night Watched with Jane

Tuesday 25th with Jane till 9 in the AM then laid down till one in the PM had a sweet sleep then got up and washed me and went back to Janes Waggon to take care of her about 4 Uncle W called again was very kind and consoling with him we feasted on water & musk melons. a very unexpected treat in the Wilderness he laid hands on Jane and W blessed us all and departed night attended on Jane who was still very sick today Wealthy had a Chill.

Wednesday 26th Jane a little more comfortable, having told father that 'twas Samuels desire that I should go and take care of Jane when she came. if she needed my assistance and thinking that she would never need it more than at the present I obtained his consent and about 2 o'clock left Council Bluffs in company with Jane and family for the Point. father moved there the same day. the distance was about 6 miles. the weather pleasant. we arrived about sundown today I felt quite unwell. night attended on Jane.

Thursday 27th to day our cattle having strayed today we was unable to proceed any farther I felt quite unwell through the day attended upon Jane & Wealthy who were still very sick. at Night Sister Jane said I should go to fathers and take a nights rest, as I had had no rest for several nights. accordingly I went. found the folks had retired to bed in the Waggon. so I made my bed on a couple of quilts in the tent and had a sweet sleep.

Friday 28th a beautyfull day
Letter to Samuel Richards, September to October 1846

Camp of Israel, Ommehas Nation. Winter Quarters. 30 miles North of the mouth of Platt River. West side of the Mo
Sep 30th 1846.

My Dear though far absent Husband 'tis with pleasure. I once more take my penn in hand to address a few lines to you. wich I trust my dear will find you enjoying health peace and the Spirit of God. to comfort & strenthen you in the discharge of every duty. until you shall have completed your mission and returned in safty to your home. although I know not where you will find it. but I trust it 'twill be according to your prayers. that is—in the bosem of your Mary. Oh! my dear. I do ever think of you. and as I cannot be with you. I pray my Heavenly Father to preserve our lives. and permit us once more to enjoy each others society. it has pleased him to bless me with health for wich I feel truly gratefull I think I have gaind with intrest all the flesh I lost during my Illness before you left me. I recieved your kind letter bearing date June 26 & 7th also another bearing date July first & 2th the former on the 13th of July the latter on the 17th. I wrote you a long letter in ansure to them and sent it by Bro Taylor. dedrected to you in care of our Bro Edward Corbridge. wich I trust by this time you have recieved. in it I wrote you some of the particulars concerning our journey our arival at the Bluffs our situwation &C also that there had been a Company of 500 men. sent into service of the U S for one year. that Joseph had gone. we got a letter from [him] on the 15th of Aug. he had had the chills. but was getting better. also that Melissa B. had changed her name to Cory. they are gon into the army. Bro Franklin's folks arived at the Bluffs. aug the 15th was greatley rejoiced to meet with Jane who I think has indeed come up through great tribulation. She lost a little Son on the 23th of July who lived but a 1/2 an houre. his name was Franklin Snider [Isaac Phinehas Richards]. She brought him to Mount Pisgah were She met with Father who had retorned there to get a load of his things wich we were obliged to leave having but one waggon he buryed little F S. Jane & dear little W[althy] L[ovisa] had been sick most of the way but was much better when they arived Elizabeth had had the chills lightley. ever since the 14th of July. on the 21th of Aug. Jane was go again taken sick. with the flux. suffered the severest affliction. until the 23 26. I attended upon her. day. and night. as far as my strenth would admit. on the 23th Bro Brigham and Heber came to see her and administerd to her & W[althy] Lovisa. said they was glad that I was with her and Councl me to remain with [page 2] her said if I would I should be Blest with health the next morning Bro Woodruff called to see her. he also layed hands on Jane & W L. in the PM
Uncle Willard came and made quite a visit. told us what to do for Jane. &C spoke many comforting words to us both. prayed for Jane & WL. this day we feasted on water & musk melons. in the AM WL had a chill on the 26th I left the Bluffs in company with Jane & family. traveled 4 miles to Council Point. fathers folks moved there. the same day. the 12 & the main body of the Church had crossed the Mo. and were encamped 20 miles up the River. Janes bro & mother being all in the main camp. She was counseled to go there also. So on the 26 we took leave of fathers folks. & started for the main Camp. crossed the Mo. and on the 31 arrived at Brigham’s encampment. Jane was much better but WL grew worse all the time. uncle Levi attended upon her. uncle W came almost every day to see her we tried with all our strength & faith to save her but I am sorry to say. it was all to no purpose. she still continued to grow worse. until the 19 when about one o’clock She departed this life. Peaceful her gentle spirit fled. The Heavenly Courts to adorn. Her body slumbers with the dead to wait the resurrection morn. Wealthys sickness was the diarrhoea and canker.

Jane is writing to Franklin. all the particulars concerning her death. so I forbear. as you will be able to learn from him. Oh! my dear ’twas a distressing sight to see the affection or sorrow that Jane endured at the death of her only child. it would be impossible for me to describe it. you must judge for your self. on the 15th Uncle W came with his Carige and carried us to the grave. W L was the first one laid in the new burying ground. uncle W took us home with him to his own tent. were we visited until the 20th. Uncle W is very kind told me I was welcome to his table & home. untill you returned. he claims Jane and myself for his childrens has promised to be a father to us both seems to feel quite interested for us. have had the chance to talk with him on many subjects have learned considerable. one thing is that it is the calculation at present. for us to remain here until you return. which to use his own expression. he said he knew no reason why you could not return to accompany us accross the mountains one year from next Spring.

Jane is writing on the other side of the table. She says it will be 2 years to her. next spring. so she will expect Franklin then.

another thing was that the 12 & all the men that are able are expecting to leave their familys and cross the mountains next spring.

October first. the place where we have settled for winter quarters is one of the most beautifull flats I ever see. it is about one mile square. the East side borders on the Mo River and most of the North & South. the West side is bounded. with a ridge or bluff. from the top of which it descends gradually to the River. to the North is a view of several bluffs ½ grass & ½ timber. the scene is quite Romantic. the City is divided into quarter Acre lots each family possessing a lot. there is 20 lots in one block 10 fronting on each Street. the streets run the same way as they did in nauvoo. Janes lot is about the center of the City. fathers lot is joining to it but fronts on another street.
the one next to it is reserved for Chester [Snyder] who is not here yet but is expected soon. Bro Jenne has the next lot left of Jane. Sally [Sarah Jenne] took care of Jane all the way to the Mo River. there she was taken sick has been sick ever since. but is now recovering. next to them is Jesse. next to him Father Jacobs we are about a quarter of a mile from the meeting ground. about ½ from Uncle W & L. Father’s folks are yet at Council Point. but expect to move here. the fore part of next week. I heard from them yesterday. Father & mother were well Henry has been quite sick but is much better. Maria was blest with a little Daughter. on Sun the 26th of July. she is handsom Child her name is Synthe Maria. Maria & Melinda[ar] have both been very sick but are getting better. mother Willcox about the 9th of aug was taken sick with the chills & fever. she died on the 20th. Bro Danial Hendrex's wife died on the 25 of july. left a littl daughter 2 weeks old who died 10 days afterwards. Mary spencer died about the first of aug. lost a babe Hyrum Spencer died about the middle of July between nauvoo & mount Pisgah.

[page 3] father’s [Samuel] Bent & Huntington. died about the first of Aug. the former about at garden Grove. the latter at mount Pisgah. father Colten [John Coltrin], died on the 31 of Aug. Squer. [Daniel H.] Wells. & William Cuttler arived here on the 26th aug in 6 days from Nauvoo. bringing information concerning a battle fought in that City on the 19th between 100 of the Bretheren and ten 100 of the mob. The former had 5 Cannons. the mob 6 the battle lasted one houre and 20 minets in wich time the Brethern fired 36 Cannon. mob 42. the mob retreated to their Camp. Bro Henderson & his Son [Captain William Anderson and his son, Augustus] were slain in the war. also Bro Noris [David Norris] the number slain among [the] mob is yet unknown. the[y] are trying to keep it secret one Sister saw them throw 16 into one Waggon. Bro Cormick being sick got into his seller they brought some & laid them by his well curbe. the battle was fought in the rear of Boscos store. report says in the St. Louis papers that the mormons killed [illegible] men on the 18 by firing into the mobs Camp & that they killed one of the mormons. the Bre fired upon the mob. but knew not how many they had killed. until they told the story themselfs the statement that the[y] had killed one of the bretheren is fals. they fired 3 Cannons at Squ. Wells. house one took the hat from a boys head. & past over the house. the other struck the barn. the other the well curbe. the[y] also fired several at Bro Barlow locust grove. & cut it all down soposeing the Bre was hid there. at the same time the Bre was fireing upon them from another direction. I have wrote the above as near as I can remember. as I heard it from Uncle Willards mouth.

Oct. 2 My dear Samuel if you can read & make sence. of what I have writton I shall feel glad. but it is writton in such & [an] unconnected maner. I fear ’twill be almost imposable. but as you know I amham unlarned I hope you will bear with my imperfections and excuse all my misstakes. you wrote
to me that I might go and assist Jane. if she stood in need of me. I have been with her ever since the 21 of Aug. I have watched by her by day & by night when it has seemed almost imposable for her to live. also my dear little Wealthy. I have spent some happy hours with her. and many gloomy ones during her & Ws sickness give my love to Franklin. tell him when he prays for Jane to remember me. and I will try to comfort her all I can. and keep her alive if possible for a comfort for me and also for him when he returns. I do not know how long I shall remain with her. I suppose fathers folks will expect me to live with them when they come but ’twill be so near. ’twill be almost the same. I expect I shall sleep with her this winter. fathers folks have sold all their feather beds save one. when we got [to] Farmington our load was so heavy. father sold one bed. & left another. unsold another at mount Pisgah. I was glad I left my bed. for we could not have carried it. Jane got a letter with Franklin wrote to Bro Clard [Clark] bearing date July 14th on the 20th of Sep. this was the last time I heard from you. have long been looking. for one from you but have looked in vain. almost begin to despair Oh! Samuel deary have you forgot me. Surely not. but why should that letter that brings intelligence from you my dearest. be delayed so long. I was glad to hear that you had got some new Clothes. my prayers shall be for the welfare of those. who administer to your necessitys. but how was it my dear. that you had to go so long without eating. can it be there was one so unfeeling. as to enjoy food & withhold it from you. was also exeeding glad to hear that you was well & that prosperity attended you which blessings I pray may ever abide with you.

Oct. 3th. Samuel dear. recieve my thanks. for the preasents you sent me by Jane. and espacialy for the one that bears your likeness. ’tis a comfort to see any thing that resembles you. though I sometimes say ’tis an aggravation for I would much rather see the Original. but forgive me. I love to gaze upon it. though it returns a ell cool & sober look. they folks say if you had been looking at Mary when it was taken you would have looked much more pleasant. wish it could have been so I often thought after you left us. had I been well nothing would have induced me to have left before you. but I expect ’twas all for the best. I try to think so and Endeaver to live for your sake until you retorn

[page 4] give my love to all my Brothers & Sisters. tell Edward Alice [Edward and Alice Parker Corbridge] William and Ellen [William and Ellen Parker Corbridge] that I say if they do not come. before or when you come. I shall begin to think they never mean to. Robert [Parker] Richard [Parker] Isabella [Parker Cottam] Ann [Parker Watson] and their Children Familys I would love to see but hope is almost forbid me. tell them for me if the[y] love me. and ever wish to do anything that would add to my comfort they must comfort & take good care of my Samuel. for should I ever learn that they treated him with disrespect. it would almost break my heart. but I have
too much confidence in them to believe they would ever ill treat my Husband. I would dearly love to see all my nephews and nieces and hear them say Uncle Samuel and Aunt Mary. how pleasant 'twould seem to have all my Fathers Children with their children planted together in some pleasant spot. they could call their own. & that spot in the midst of the Saints. they all believeing in the truth and my aged Father in their midst. if wishing or praying could ever bring us all together. I would never cease. there is many things I would love to write concerning them but have no room. I leave them in the hands of him who rules our destiny. hope in all things will work together for our good. and I have all confidence that my Samuel will do his part. deary I enjoy myself as well as you can expect yet there is no solid happiness. for me without you I find your place is vacant where e'er I go Jane says give my love to Samuel ask him for me. if you may live with me if you may till he returns Samuel accept my kindest love and believe me I remain as ever
Your affectionate wife, Mary H. Richards

[In the bottom left corner of the page is a poem]
That love that never knows to change
For you in Mary's bosom reigns
Though years & space may us devide
It ever shall for you abide

[Sunday [date illegible] Sunday] Samuel I have been to meeting to day heard Bro O Pratt Preach on the resurrection redemption and Salvation of the body. his decorce was very intersting. after meeting. I went to Uncle Willards. Aunt Amelia appeard very glad to see me. she is well. Eliza Ann was there. she has been quite unwell for several days both wish to be kindly rememberd to you & Franklin. Sarah is not very well. though she keeps to work. took supper with Uncle Levis folks Aunt Sarahs health is quite poor. Aunt Rhoda is quite unwell. they desire me to give their love to you. Bro VanCot is gon to St Louis his family are well.

[upside down on front page] our dear Cousin Eliza Ann Peirson died on the 12th of Oct. with the chills & Fever have not room to write the particulars I was with her when she died. Ellen you wrote was coming with Bro [Edward] Hunter. instead of that she came with Bro Woolly. they arived at the Bluffs aug. 10th camped for 2 weeks close by us. used to be with her almost every day. had sevarel long talks with her in wich she exprest herself to me much the same as to you. She spoke of being freed. when she saw Brig. to wich I replied I have larned that those who were sealed over the alter must in the same maner be unsealed. I sopose you can seperate by mutual agreement and I dont know but what you Covnant to be sealed to another. but I should judge that you could not be freed. until there is another Temple completed.
I gave her some what I would call good instructions. about being so fickle minded. and trued [tried] to persuad her to have a mind of her own. and not be torned about by every body say so she is still with W. they appear to live quit[e] comfortable together now to what they used too. her health is pretty good I have just heard that Wolters folks have crost the River. Maria for some reason. has weaned her babe I have not learned what. they are camped. about 2 miles from us with Bro Joseph Youngs folks. Cousen John Young has been very sick. but is getting better. there is one favor I ask of you. which if you love me you will certainly grant. that is. that you let no oppertunity pass of writing pass by you unimproved. Bro Pratt will return in the spring. if you cannot send me a letter before he returns do not fail to write then. pleas to write me all the perticulars about your journey your prosperity your meeting with my friends &C &C it seems almost a year since I had a letter from your own hand. hope I shall hear from you soon. deary I do want to hear from you. you know I love you yea rest assured forever that you have the sincere affections of you Mary H Richards goodbye

[back page in the margin] 19th [tear] learn'd that Bro O Spencer for leave for Eng tomorrow he will carry this to New York. so will just say. we are all well and in tolerable good spirets. still with Jane father is not yet come. Samuel good Bye

[addressed to]
Mr. Samuel W. Richards
Liverpool England
To remain in the Stranger office till called for
rec’d Jan 26 1847

[scrap of paper] Oct 10th dear Samuel as we have not yet had a chance to send our letters. I thought I would write a scrap to let you know that we are still well. on the eve of the 7th Uncle W sent for me to come to watch with E A Peirson. who was very sick. taken sick while there on a visit. while there had the pleasure of reading a letter which you wrote to Bro Paine in Nauvoo. dated on the 31st of Aug. which he sent to Uncle W. it gave me much comfort to hear from you although I often wonder why it is. that I cannot have a letter from you as well as others. I am sure if you thought half as much about me. as I do about you. or felt half so lonely. you could not forbear writing so long. I would just as soon you had wrote 6 letters before you sailed. as to have waited till the last day it would not have hort my feelings the least mite.

[back of the scrap] but perhaps I am finding fault without cause. you may have wrote to me. if so I ask your forgiveness. and will try to wait patiantly for the proof of your rememberance. Bro Everit. is hear brought our dog. watch. with them. father has got him. Bro [Almon W.] Babit is here on an express from Nauvoo. Says the mob has taken possession of the Temple have cut a hole through the Font. & broken the horns off[f] the oxen cut the
floor & disfigured the inner part &C &C will not the Lord pity his Saints. and do unto them that have injured his House even as they have done unto it I do not think of any more news to write to you at present. though though if you was here I could tell you many things which I cannot write. but this must suffice. May the blessings of heaven attend you were e’er your lot is cast. Oh may that Angel who has guarded you unto the present time never forsake you but watch over you by day & by night. & comfort you under all your trials & Sorrows until I shall again behold your face and enjoy your sweet society. M H R
Cutler’s Park, Nebraska. Copy of original sketch in the Heber C. Kimball Journals of 1846, probably drawn by Peter Hansen. The journal page was not long enough to capture the whole scene, so the right half of the campsite is drawn on the bottom of the page. Courtesy of LDS Historical Department.

Winter Quarters, 1846-1847. From an oil-on-canvas painting by C. C. A. Christensen; courtesy of LDS Historical Department.