

JAMES AND REBECCA McNEILL TO MACK

Sunday Jan the 18th/61

Esteemed friend I take my pen in hand to let you know that I am well with the exception of my finger. it is worse than it was when I left Mich. I have to hoald my pen betwen my thumb & second finger. I got on a sled a half mile south of the place where we parted; last road to pioneer [Ohio]. got thare quarter past twelve. from then I road shanks mare to Isaacs school house. got thare about 2 oclock. stayed till school was excused. mounted shanks mare road to Ewingses put up for the night. Mrs E put a soap poultice on my sore finger. went to bed to roal and tumble and dream of murder. next morning up and breakfasted before daylight. off early to Unity by 9 oclock got home at 1 oclock, PM Tuesday. all wel. went 3 days to the Baldwin institute. if I doant graduate it will be because I doant learn aneough sleading good. you know what you promised you also know that Jas Hollinshead said he would caul you if you did not come (I have made so many promises that I wont say any thing about your failing to come) I hope to see you before you see this. Isaacs folks are well my finger is to sore to write. we had a spelling last Thursday night at our school house we had fine times. we have a debate every wednsday night at John Martins cabinet shop. I want you to be there one night before long if you doant come down to see us before you answer this letter let me know how that protracted meeting is progressing

I will turn anew leaf

William Snow took a sleigh load of folks from the neigbourhood to a dance at Berlington last Newyears night his wife went with him

From James McNeel
To Mr. Henry Ewing
Cambria Mills
Hillsdale Co
Mich

Jim is out now and I thought I would write some to you now I want you to come down here you rascal you. dont call me independent or I shant like it. try and coax Martha to come with you give my best respects to all of the friends. now I want you to come down soon. Jim has just come in and has cought me writing in his letter so I must bring my letter to a close if I do not I shall write off the sheet and you could not read it. Good bye

H.M.E. Rebie Mc

Note: Isaac Ewing, born in 1825, was the oldest of Susannah and Enoch's children. He was the first Ewing to move from Jackson, Ohio to Hillsdale County, Michigan. He died in 1868. To go by "shank's mare" is to go by foot.

WKE 100396