



(This is the last of the letters written by John Ward from Yamhill County in the fall of 1850 to his wife who had remained in the mid-West. At the time of the writing of this letter he is staying with Richard Booth who settled just south of present McMinnville on what came to be known as Booth Bend Road.)

I want you to try and bring the dog along if you can do as he will be very useful here. You will have to keep him tied up as much as possible or he will get foot sore. I should like very much to see neighbor Cooper in this country as I think he could do better here as the donation land will be very advantageous to them and the mines are only about three hundred miles from here and they can go from here to the mines and make money and be back again in about three months. When you get to Cainesville inquire for a man by the name of Luke Booth among the emigrants. He is an Englishman. If you can find him I hope you will come on together. I am now staying with his brother here in this country. I do not want you to neglect writing to me as this will be the last letter you will receive from me, as another will not reach you before leaving home and if you do not come, I want to know what to depend upon. I hope you will send me a letter by every mail until you leave the settlements. I hope you will keep up your spirits as well as you can for I think you will like this country much better than you do the states, so no more, but remain your affectionate husband.

John Ward

P.S. I wish you would let friend Cooper from South know that if he would come to this country, he could make a fortune in a very short time, for there is no persons in his trade in my knowings and there is a great demand for wagons here and they bring a high price.

John Ward

P.S. If Lucy and her children does not come, perhaps you and neighbor Cooper and you could come together in one wagon with a good team. If you can't find other ways to come. Bring all the cows you can get, they work well on the road. Address your letter to Lafayette, Yamhill County, Oregon--so no more.

John Ward

P.S. The wife will get as much land as the husband which they have in their own name, which makes them perfectly independent. I should like for Lucy to come here as she can do well here, and while I live she shall never want a father's protection.

John Ward

(So far we have not been able to determine if John's family joined him in Oregon or if he stayed here.)

RS