

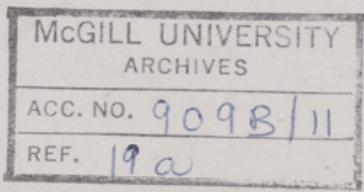
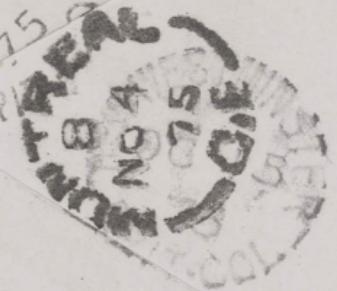
Blackwater Deposit/18
Interesting letter



Mrs Dawson
McGill College
Montreal. P.Q.

CARRIE
NO. 1
ZINC
GARFIELD

~~WINDS~~
NO 75 TC
ONTARIO
OC 16/1
75 S
GRV 4 5 E



*nothing special,
pick at little bits*

Blackwater Depot. Blackwater River
Sunday Oct-3. 1875-

My Dear Anna,

'Snow, Snow beautiful snow' at last; after a term of the most splendid cloudless weather, frost-nearly every night & oppressive hot-in the sun in the middle of the day. On Friday as we travelled along to this place the signs of bad weather began to appear. The barometer fell, light clouds began to gather & thicken. Geese flying from the far west passed over us, & towards evening the wind went round from W. to N. & became squally. All yesterday it drizzled & occasionally a half melted snow flake came down, & last-night the snow came in earnest & was this morning about 2 inches deep, soft, & clammy. Today it is melting away as fast as it can & the weather shows signs of clearing up again, & I have no doubt that when this pent-up-outburst is past over, we shall have the Indian Summer for a week or two.

I am now here waiting the arrival of a pack train from Quinsville for Ft. George, Mr Smith proposing that I should accompany it there & back.

the three pack animals I have had, having got
so sore under the mismanagement of the Indian
packer, that they are for the present useless. The pack
train may not get here for some days yet, but if
the weather becomes settled I can occupy the time profitably
in the neighbourhood.

I found just a mail waiting my arrival here, the
latest date being I think Aug. 28. Thanks for your
letters & enclosures from William & I have not yet
received a copy of your Report, but may get it
before leaving here, & if not then on my return. The
pack train goes to Ft George in 4 days & will not
probably remain there more than a day or two. From
here to Durmelle is three days by pack train, though
one can ride through light in a day, the distance
being only about 45 miles. At Durmelle of course one
is on the regular travelled line of the Fraser & within less
than a week of Victoria.

Nothing yet from Mr Selwyn, though I expect daily to
hear of or see him. It is first possible that he may go
out to the coast & Lake François, which Mr Smith has
written particulars to meet him at Ft George. In which
case I should not see him.

I think it is your turn for a letter, but for the life you cannot remember to whom I wrote last. As there is nothing particular to write about - however it cannot make much odds.

Since leaving the Cascade Mts. there has been very little fine or remarkable scenery. The general surface of the country is a more or less regular plateau with hills & ranges of hills rising above it - ten or twelve, & river & stream valleys cutting down into it. Some of the river valleys are very large & deep, but generally wet & watery. There are occasional meadows, swamps, & hillsides with good grass, & in some places open woods of large Douglas pines with grass growing beneath them. As a rule however the country is pretty thickly wooded with scrub pine, sometimes of fair growth & standing, often prostrate, often burnt, often burnt & prostrate with young scrub pines coming up in dense thickets &c &c. Through & over & away all the varieties of country, the little paths they call trails here, wind & twist seeking for lines of least resistance, or following the path made by which the first Indians originally crawled across the country. I think I once used the latter before, but really the country much resembles a party of some Republicans, & I believe if one was to go to it

George & Ryan sketching the pile, sticks would be
seen running down at some buttresses on its
flanks!

There is something very pleasant however in these
autumn woods, now that the aspens are
turning yellow among the Spruces & pines. There
are no maples however or other trees which take
very beautiful tints.

I am professing pretty rapidly in my knowledge
of Chinook, & can now understand pretty well &
speak a little. It is very easy to learn of course
there being no grammar at all & a few words going
a long way, especially when the range of subjects
usually forming topics of conversation is limited.
I am writing a few words to Foster, & may have
time for another letter before leaving here. If not
it will not now be long before I get back to more
regular postal communications.

With love to yourself & all

Yours affectionately Brother

George

