Sparta Decbr 14th 1853

Dear Son & Daughter I Recd your letter to day and am glad to have from you once more, and to no that you were well; L.H. Colson & the Children went from here this morning, but I did not get the letter until they had left, they have been here since Tuesday, but I was over at John Mayos to the burying this morning the reason that I did not get your letter until they left, John Mayo and his wife both died this week Mrs Mayo died on Tuesday morning, & the old man died the next Evening, they both were taken sick on Thursday last, - Dr R.S. Sugg is also dead, he died the 13th of oct John H. Daniel the Preacher is gone in= =sane and is now in the mad house, Dr F.G. Pitt is married again he has married Susan Knight,

Henry has Bought Shelys Hines place and is building over there, Henry Shely had his leg run over by the Rail Road Cars, and had to have it cutt off at the thigh, I am glad to no that you have bought land, I have bought the lot where ~~I~~ I now live I gave $3.50 for it,

#24.1.a.2

I want you to write to us often as you can
for we have been looking for a letter for
a month, we should be very glad to
see you bouth but it seems that you
dont never intend to come to see us, if
you dont come shortly of course, you cant,
for when get more family you cant come
then, We had a letter from your Uncle
David some time ago, they were all well,
oh I likeed to forgot to tell you that
Grey Shelton and old Bill, Littles Daughter
Margret, was married last Night,
Martha Maria has wrote you a letter
so you may look for it shortly
We send you bouth our love and hope
this may find you in good health as
it leaves us; write soon so I come
to a close I Remain your affectionate
father

H S Smith

&

Elizabeth Smith

A knowledge
to teach the young
Idea how to shoot.