

John Brown, Jr., correspondence

Section 4, Pages 91 - 120

John Brown, Jr., wrote these letters to his wife Wealthy Brown during the early years of the Civil War. He enlisted and served as a Captain of Company K, 1st Kansas Cavalry (later the 7th Kansas Cavalry). Colonel Charles Jennison headed this regiment. It appears his wife and son John were living in Ohio, probably Ashtabula. The letters start while Brown is on a recruiting trip in Canada and Michigan. Many of the letters in January 1862 are written from Camp Jackson and Camp Johnson near Morristown, Cass County, Missouri. Brown's letters from February and March 1862 were written from Humboldt, Allen County, Kansas. Brown writes from Camp Wendell Phillips near Lawrence from most of April and May 1862. The last few letters are written from Madison, Indiana, on his way home to Ohio. The letters are very descriptive of camp life and names of many of the men in his company are mentioned. Several letters mention associates of his father's such as William Partridge and Richard Hinton. Almost every letter mentions how much he misses his family. Native American scouts are also mentioned by Brown as valuable to the war effort. Brown discusses the problems of determining local residents' loyalty in the war on the Kansas Missouri border in his letter written January 21, 1862. In the letter dated January 26, 1862, and continued on the 27th, Brown writes that he sent ten black soldiers to save a slave mother and children whose owner was planning to take them further south. In his letter dated March 9, 1862, Brown describes the execution of a soldier named Driscoll from Company H who stabbed another soldier, was court martialed, and shot. Brown sent a letter of resignation, because of his continued poor health, to Gen. James Blunt in May 1862. NOTES ABOUT THE IMAGES: Brown frequently made notes in the margins. To make it easier to read these images, the pages with these notes are included twice--first with the original orientation and then again rotated ninety degrees to aid in reading the note. A letter from Hannibal, Missouri, is dated December 7, 1861, but the content of this letter and subsequent letters makes it apparent that this letter was written sometime in January 1862 but before the letter dated January 11, 1862. The images for this letter are placed in the correct order for content but will seem out of order chronologically based on date. The last letter in the group is missing its first page however the content, about primarily family matters, makes it apparent it was written in late 1861 or early 1862. The text version is one file that presents the letters in chronological order, except for the the exceptions noted above. It is necessary to scroll to the appropriate date. SEVERAL PAGES IN VARIOUS LETTERS ARE WRITTEN IN A NUMERIC CODE. This code, between John Brown, Jr. and his wife, encrypt private messages between the couple. A key to the code and transcriptions of those letters can be found filed with the original letters. The code key and transcriptions are available in the repository upon request. Access is restricted to these particular letters; researchers under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian, or provide written permission from same, to see those transcriptions.

Creator: Brown, John, 1821-1895

Date: February 14, 1861-November 29, 1863

Callnumber: John Brown, Jr. Coll. #833

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ones. Should I live to be with you once more it is my fixed purpose to engage in no business that shall require me to live or rather stay away from my loved home so much. — There it not for the war I would not be away from you now. My home is "the dearest spot on earth to me" and I hope to yet live to make it the brightest and happiest place to you & Johnny. — I feel that we shall yet have a home of our own, which I know we can make attractive and happy. If there is one thing I desire to live for now more than another it is to see the cause of right triumph, and to spend the rest of my life in quiet and peace "at home". — For these I shall gladly hail every token of substantial peace to the country. — I will write you as often as possible, and until further notice your ~~written~~ letters will best reach me directed the same as before to Seavenworth. Johnny my dear boy Ma sends me many good words about you. This makes me very glad. I send you many kisses and I want you to know that I think of you a great many times a day. — Ma says you don't forget me, that you often enquire about me. I am so glad that you don't forget me. — I know you will be a real good boy and do all



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Man wants you to. I love you very
 much. Good bye for a little while my
 darling boy - I want to write you a
 few words in figures and I will once more
 precious wife say Good bye.
 My love to our - Your Own John
 dear friends mean you.

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John Brown, Jr., correspondence

Humboldt Kansas
Tuesday March 18th 1862

My Precious Wife:-

The messenger brought me last evening your two letters dated March 5th and 6th. Tomorrow the regular mail goes out and I will send you a few words. The last I wrote, I sent by Jerry who was then on his way home. It was a long letter, the only one of much length I have felt able to write for a good while. Within the past twenty four hours I have been taking a dose prescribed by a Dr Bennett and Army Surgeon now on a visit to this place. It was to take 3 ounces of Saltpeter in 2 pints of water, the whole to be taken in 24 hours. I finished taking this dose this forenoon. I am very certain I shan't repeat this dose - it was enough to drown an ox. But this I wouldn't mind if I could perceive any benefit from it. The disease seems now to be located almost entirely in my hip joints. You write of putting rock oil on Johnny's knees. I wish I had some to try, it seems to me it might do some good, but I can't get any in this region. I some think of trying blisters. A man living near Wm Partridges says that he had Rheumatism just as I have it for more than a year and finally was cured by accident. He took some ~~alcohol~~ alcohol

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Spirits of Turpentine and balsam of Fir and white
bathing it in one night by the fire he dropped a
candle against his leg and set himself on fire
and was badly burned. When the burn got well he
was relieved of his rheumatism. His experience inclines
me to try blistering. Indeed, I am ready to try almost
anything to get rid of this interminable pain, and be
able to move round like other people once more.

Last night we had a storm of rain with thunder
and lightning, the grass begins to appear in places.
The wild geese are flying in all directions. They live
in this region all winter I think. But the familiar
sounds of Spring to be heard in Dorset (the frogs) I
don't hear in this prairie land.

Charley Hopkins has just come in and brought
me a dozen eggs as a present. He is in fine spirits.
All are in usual health belonging to my Company.
I notice preparations going on to move the Camp
about fifty rods South of its present location as
the present grounds have become muddy. The
news has just come that Gen Hunter has been
transferred to the Potomac and that we are now
in the Department Commanded by that pro slavery
Gen Halleck who refuses to allow fugitive Slaves to
come within his lines. Of course this news creates
a great deal of excitement among us. Almost every
one has some opinion to express, but the general belief
is that since Gen Halleck does not like our Regiment
that he will either put us where we can't hurt



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Slavery, or drop us out of the Service among the other Cavalry Regiments which have been ordered to be mustered out.

How good you are to write me so often. I should send you a letter as often if the mail or messenger went from here oftener. but of late I have had an opportunity of sending only once a week. Where are you and how are you now. I have asked myself many times to day - Dear Johnny, he you says seems to enjoy his new home very much. How I do long to see you all again. Perhaps I shall soon, and yet can't say what is likely to be. If I get better soon I shall of course continue where I am, or as long as the Regt. holds together, if I don't get better before long I shall be mustered out of service as I should be unwilling to continue long to receive pay for services which I am unable to render. Once more it is thundering and beginning to rain. I am getting very tired, and will rest awhile.

Almost night - the rain is pouring down finely - As in all stormy days I am in more pain this afternoon than yesterday which was warm and pleasant. I wonder when I am to get through with affliction? But I ought not to indulge in any feeling of complaint since I might be a great deal worse off - As yet there are no symptoms of my joints becoming permanently stiffened or drawn out of place. This affords me great encouragement - I could hardly

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imagine any thing more dreadful —

Dear Mr. — I want to fill this sheet but my right
hip pains me so I must stop. — Jol. Chellery has
made up my bed and I must close this and lie
down. — By the way Hinton is now here
with us and will probably stay here some time.
He showed me a letter he had lately recd
from Annie in which she says Salmon is in
the Army. He is 2nd Lieutenant of Company K
96th N. York State Volunteers stationed at
Platesburg N.Y. The name of his Col is
Lt James Fairman.

Say to Alex King that I will try to get
a discharge for George but it will be
necessary to get a Certificate from an
Army Surgeon there at home stating his present
health and disability. I would recommend that
if he is not able to return at the expiration of his
leave of absence he send to me here a Surgeons
(Army Surgeons) Certificate and get his leave of absence
extended. — If he is entirely unfitted for the
service a Certificate to that effect will be needed.
I will do all I can for him here. — The Paymaster
has not yet appeared. — I will write you
by next messenger who will leave some day this
week. — Mr. Stout wonders why he dont get more
letters. He dont write except when he gets a letter
in answer to one of his. He envies my good fortune in
getting letters. — Owen I hope you will stay as long
as you can. It may be I shall be home in a few weeks.
I will make it all right with you. — This now looks
dark to see. — Johnny I send you a kiss. — Remembering
me to all the good friends and know that I am your loving son.

Humbolt Kansas
March 25th 1862

My own loved wife:-

I have this moment received yours of the 17th - Every thing is hurly burly this morning as we have just recd ~~an~~^{an} order to march to day at 12 o'clock for Lawrence. It is said we ^{are} under orders to go to New Mexico -

I don't know how I am to go yet as I am not able to bear the jolting of a wagon. Mr Sloat is trying to find a light spring buggy.

I am not yet able to take a step without crutches or a couple of canes -

Alex King wrote me to get a discharge for George

I have written him this morning. -

I want to write you a long letter, but I can only say a word now. How good you are to write so often

Please say to Mr Wightman that for a long time I have felt able to write only to you. I have not written to any of my friends -

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at Grand Rapids. but will
write both to our friends at
Cleveland and; these as soon
as I can. I owe Eliza a
letter which I hope to pay
soon — I feel badly to only
write you such a short note
in answer to your dear long
letters but I can't help it
now. Of late we have had
no mail or messengers often
than once a week from here.
I will write you every chance
I can get — Sent Postwick
has just come in, he says that he
has a letter from you in which
you say Mr Jones is dead. If he
had stayed with us he perhaps might
now be living. Our Regiment
has been remarkably healthy.
It seems to be now certain
that we have orders to proceed
to New Mexico. I am glad of
this more instead of going to
Texas. New Mexico is a very
healthy region compared with Texas
and now that warm weather is
coming on, the high mountainous
regions will be much more
healthy for us

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Johnny, it made me glad to read what Ma writes about you how good a boy you are. You dont forget me but send me a great many good words and kisses I dont forget you any day, but think of you a great many times a day. I do want to see you so much. I should so like to have you go with me every where I go, what good times we could have. You are a very dear boy to me. Good bye a little while.

The route we shall take to Lawrence passes twenty two miles west of Osawatomie so that when I visit Osawatomie if I do at all, I should go there from Lawrence probably. The next letter I send you will probably be sent from Lawrence which is ninety miles from here. To make this march will take us five or six days. If you do not hear from me for a week or more dont be uneasy - Mr Stout has found a light wagon and a harness. Maj has corked himself and is quite lame but I shall hitch him up and try to get along in this way - How my thoughts are ever with you at



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home. When I think of you I
 Can't get it ⁱⁿ ~~out of~~ my mind that
 you ^{are now} in the house where I left
 you. and I always think of you
 and Martha as you passed out
 of sight on the Steam Boat
 Ocean that moonlight night.
 How lonely I felt as I stood on
 that wharf gazing after you.
 When shall I look on your dear
 faces again? I sometimes think
 I shall see you in a few weeks
 and perhaps I may. If I am able to go
 with the Regiment to New Mexico I
 shall do so. As I am unwilling to
 leave the Company so long as I can
 be of any use. But unless I get
 better I shall not long continue to
 be an expense to the Government
 when I cannot render service in
 return. — I have written longer
 than I thought I could when I began
 amongst the noise and hurry of a
 move. — Letters addressed as before
 will be sent to the Regiment, wherever
 it may be. I wish I could have
 written you oftener lately but you
 will I know take the will for the deed.
 Give my love to all. I would ^{write} to Johnny
 a little letter but I can't get time
 now. Kiss my darling boy for me. I
 love to have you write all about him — and
 all about every one at home. I keep up as
 good spirits as I can. Don't get discouraged
 the Regt will probably be paid while at Lawrence
 I will send you the first money I get. Good
 bye my darlings. Forever Yours
 Father, loving John



Camp Wendell Phillips
Near Lawrence Kansas
April 2nd 1862

My dearly loved wife

It is about 2 o'clock of Tuesday afternoon just a week since we left Humboldt and now for the first time have I been so situated as to answer your dear letters of the 15th 17th and 22nd March the last of which I read at this place yesterday. Words are but poor expressions of the sense I have of your faithfulness in writing so often as you have. I should have written you earlier (as we arrived here on Saturday) but the march from Humboldt was a hard one for me and I have not in fact felt able to write until today.

I am now at the house of a Mr Archibald the Father-in-law of James H. Holmes who is now Secretary of the Territory of New Mexico. Mr Sloat is here with me and Joe cooks for us. I have quite a comfortable place to stay compared with the place at Humboldt which was rather hard in cold stormy weather. But now that mild spring-like ^{days} have come it makes less difference. For a few days past we have had pleasant days and the frogs are croaking but I miss the peeping frogs which abounded in Dorset very much. If I had to live in Kansas I would send to Dorset and import a lot to make it seem like spring. If you were to look in here to day you would see Bostwick by a table in the room making out some Muster Rolls. Mr Sloat is sitting on a lounge near by writing

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to his children, while I am bolstered up in a rocking chair trying to write while every few minutes I am obliged to shift my position as best I can to ease the constant pain in my hip joints - Most of the time it is like a gnawing tooth ache. and I have often wished I could take off my hips and scrape out ^{with a pewee spoon} the joints - A very much such a desire as when during a tooth ~~ache~~ ache you wish you had hold of your tooth with a pair of bullet-moulds. In pleasant weather I am much easier, this leads me to conclude that when it comes to be permanently warm I shall get better. The prospect now is that we shall go to New Mexico. There ^{are} now here four Regts preparing to go there or rather waiting for grass to get high enough to feed - The Kansas first and our Regt and the 12th and 13th Wisconsin Regts. The 12th Came in from Fort Scott this morning I don't know when I have seen a finer body of men. Our Camp is west of the town across the ravine and near the river. It is a beautiful camping ground giving us a fine view both up and down the river. The men are as yet very healthy. There are not many of them who like the idea of going to New Mexico. The feeling generally is that there will be no fighting there to do, and that this is a plan for placing us where we shall do no harm to Slavery. Mr Holmes left here for New Mexico on Saturday. His family are now there. By the way, I have some news to tell you. Hoyt's girl came on from Massachusetts



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to Leavenworth and he met here these and they were married last Sunday. They have just arrived in town. He thinks of making Kansas his home. He came in to see me this morning looking as pleased as a boy with a new top. Orderly Cotton, Sergeant Thompson and Berste have just come in. They have been to town to get their pictures taken. Yesterday Thompson came into camp and yelled out "Company K, fall in for letters" there was a general rush as usual when they were quietly informed that it was the 1st day of April -

In your last letter you express some fear that I have not represented my case to you as bad as it is. Perhaps I have not and yet I have had no wish to withhold the truth from you. Perhaps I have not for I could not tell you how badly I have felt, but I don't want to look on the dark side especially I don't want to give way to feelings which are in a great measure caused by my physical condition. Though I am no better yet as I can see, I yet think I shall be before long. I won't give way to discouragement. Tomorrow I am going to apply a blister to my ^{right} hip and if it does any good shall try the same on the other side. I feel the utmost solicitude for my men and if they are to go to New Mexico I want to

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go with them and see that none of their
interests are neglected. But how can I
cross the plains? If I do not get better
soon I cannot go I am sure. The march
from Humboldt has settled that point with me.
News has just come that Gen
Leavenworth has command of all our Kansas
forces. Col Garrison will probably
resign rather than serve under him. I
indeed he has said as much. If this
should occur there are many other
officers who would resign. The result
would be that the Regt would be likely
to be disbanded. Well it is
getting late and I have only begun to
say what I want to. I have been obliged
to write a little and then rest. As we
have a daily mail from here now I will
write you very often. Say to Mrs Holman
that I have her good letter for which she has
my thanks. I will write her as soon as I can.
I will try and write you a good long letter in
a day or two. My own precious darling
don't imagine you are out of my thoughts because
I have not written for more than a week. Could
you only know how the eyes of my imagination are
ever looking after you you would have no doubt.
My darling Johnny. I seem almost to see you. I
was glad to get your dear words to me. I send you
a great many kisses. I don't forget you. I must say
good bye now. I haven't half said what I want to

Write me
of this
arriving
safely so
I may know
how to direct
to you here

Since I wrote you last I have received two

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The money I
send will be safe
to keep if you
don't want to
use it immediately.
If you get it
changed soon
would get good
new money or
buy specie in
small pieces I
will send some
you some more.
I am doing
all I can - to
help to get
us a home -
God bless a little
while - Always
Your faithful
John

My dearest Mary
I have received two
letters from you one of the 27th and the other of the 29th March.
Last night Postoffice brought yours of the 29th and also one
from Rebecca Dear. To day I have set apart for writing
you - Indeed you are almost the only one I da write to.
I am glad you have written to Mrs. Smith of Grand Rapids
for I have just off writing to any one there so long that I am
now almost ashamed to write to them. It has been said little
is so much of an undertaking for me to write that I have
or need myself in cases where I am afraid I shall be
charged with neglect - Sergeant Thompson has
just come in with the word that the pay master has come
and will pay our Company this afternoon. How glad I am
that I can send you some money. At the end of this month
that there will be due me four months pay, but I can only
advance two months pay now. Mr. West has just gone to the
bank to sign his name to the Pay-Roll in order to save the
trouble of signing the Receipts at the time he is paid. Instead
of sending you a Draft I think I will send to you of
the drawing notes the same Government paid on, in sum of
four and ten dollars ordered in my letters to you. There are
so many drafters here that there is great risk of buying
a worthless Draft and thus when you get a Draft you
are put to the trouble of going to Appleton to get it cashed.

Camp Harbottle, Michigan
Dear Lawrence Kansas
Saturday April 15th 1860
Write me
of this
series
safely, so
I may know
how to send
to you some

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This is a cold uncomfortable day. though not wet. We have now here the 1st and 7th Kansas Regts. and 12th and 13th Wisconsin all preparing for New Mexico. Few of the officers or men are pleased with this expedition. The feeling generally is we are to be sent there to place no where we can do the darling "Institution" no particular harm. Gen Halleck and Gen Donner are both pro slavery men of the bitterest kind, these are the Commanders we are now obliged to obey. It was a great blow to the enthusiasm of the Soldiers in this region when Fremont was removed from this Department and Halleck put in his place. —

How good and faithful you are to write me as often as you do. When shall I see you again? when shall I have my boy read stories to me as he does to you. I think when I wrote you last that I was going to try blistering. I have tried a good large one on my right hip, but instead of doing good that or something else has made me feel worse. Perhaps it is the colder weather. I confess I do occasionally get a little blue but I try to look on the bright side and hope always for the best. You ask if I have grown poor? I have lost ^{some} of my surplus flesh, I presume this too is all for the best. Haven't looked in a glass for a long time. Can't therefore say whether I look better or worse. I don't think it is best for me to try to make that journey across the plains, I have reluctantly given up the idea of going with the boys. All along I have flattered myself with the hope that I should be able to go with them but my journey from Humboldt ^{has upset} all my calculations.

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of being able to make such a journey. Unless therefore
a very great change for the better shall occur soon I shall
either be mustered out or resign. These men seem to me
like brothers and it is a hard thing for me to give up
and say I must quit. Mr Sloat has just come
with Major and a Buggy to take me to the Camp to
be paid off with the rest.

Evening. - I am tired. A very little
exertion seems to make me tired. Well, our Regt
has finally been paid off. All who came on first
and were mustered in November received four months
pay. I, with those who went with me from Michigan
received only two months or up to the time of the last
mustering for pay - March 1st. I have just paid
Joseph Chittary for his services as servant. I must
tomorrow pay for what I have drawn from the
Commissary and the balance will be what remains
of course. I enclose in this a twenty dollar Bill
and in my next will send you twenty more and
continue to send from time to time by letter if you
succeed in getting them first I send. I have
succeeded in getting George Kings pay for him up
to the first of March amounting to over forty five
dollars. Should you see either George or his father
I wish you to tell them to write me at once how
I shall send his pay to him whether by mail in
Bills or Drafts or by Express. By a recent
Order of Genl Hallack Soldiers and Noncommissioned
officers who by reason of sickness have been absent

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of being able to make such a journey. Unless therefore
a very great change for the better shall occur, I shall
either be unable to go or to stay. There must seem to me
like brother and it is a hard thing for me to give up
and say I must quit. It is almost two years since
I left my home and a happy to take me to the camp to
be paid off with the rest -

Evening - I am tired. I am little
expectation seems to make me tired. Still, our fight
and were finished in September received four months
pay. I wish those who went with me from Michigan
and received only two months or up to the time of the last
month for pay. I wish I had just paid
for the journey for the service as I have done. I wish
to know what I have drawn from the
Commissionary and the balance will be what remains
of the balance. I wish in this a hundred dollars. I wish
and in my next will send you twenty more and
continue to send from time to time by letter if you
desire in getting them paid. I send - I have
described in getting George King pay for him with
to the first of March. Commissionary to our forty five
dollars. Should you see either George or his father
I wish you to tell them to write me at once from
I shall send this pay to him whether by mail or
bill or draft or by express. By a recent
order of Gen E. Hallack, Dakota and Noncommittment
Officers who by reason of sickness have been absent



two months are to be discharged. By this Order George will of course be discharged. But it requires a great deal of time to get any thing done through the "Red Tape" system of the Army. After he gets his papers he will have to send back to some one a power of Attorney to get the balance of what is due him. I will write to his father as soon as I can. — Busti has just come in with \$25- of his two months pay (amounting to \$30-) which he wants me to save for him —

Wednesday Morning April 15th I had to make yesterday several Certificates of Disability for some of my men who are applying for a Discharge from service and they had to be made out in Duplicate. I was too tired to write you more last evening. It is rather cold this morning and I am in more pain than yesterday. I wrote with my paper on my lap and with pencil as it is so often inconvenient to have pen and ink around.

Marching orders have come, directing all the forces stationed here to rendezvous at Fort Scott, Riley, and then prepare to go to New Mexico. It is supposed that the march from here will commence within a week. By a late order of Genl. Halleck no Officer can obtain a leave of absence even in case of sickness for a period longer than seven days so that I shall be obliged either to resign or be mustered out as it out of the question for me to go on with the Command in the situation I am, at present and for ought I can see, am likely to be in for some time to come. — You ask about Major. It is hardly likely that I shall try to bring him home dead. Mr. Knowlton had him to watch his team and one night he forgot to tie him and the same night some one came prowling around the wagon and the dog flew at him and in the affair he was shot. I don't know who did it. — He was one of the best dogs I ever saw. — I thought should have written you a good long letter this time but I have been constantly interrupted. I shall write you very often. Dear, precious ones. Could you but know how much my thoughts are with you. You would not for a moment think that I neglect writing you. Even I got your good letter, and shall avoid being away from the Regt, or left behind on a march when it is possible to go along unless I am where it is safe as at this place or Osawatomie. I want to get time to write you some on figures. Do write me often in that way, won't you. I kiss you good bye.



(Camp Wendell Phillips)

Lawrence Kansas
Thursday April 17th 1862

My Own Precious Wife:

For two or three days I have delayed answering your dear letter of the 2nd and fifth of April in expectation that I should be able to say definitely where our Regiment is going from here. Last evening an order was read at Dress Parade to be ready to March on Saturday next for Fort Riley on the way to New Mexico. While all are preparing to go, I still think it very doubtful about the forces here ever being sent to that country. The late news from there is that the Texans have been defeated and are leaving Santa Fe. This report is confirmed in various ways and if true I cannot see what good is to be accomplished by our going there. Col. Jennison and Woyt have gone to Leavenworth to see what is going to be done. By the way I believe I wrote you that Woyt's girl came on from Mass. and they were lately married at Leavenworth. The new married couple called to see me a few days ago. She appears to be a really fine girl, is quite handsome and smart. He has resigned his commission in my company and calculates to settle somewhere in Kansas and practice Law I think, or perhaps engage as editor of some paper as I am told he has had such an offer. I am not certain

John Brown, Jr., correspondence

whether I wrote you that Col. Jennison had resigned the Command of our Regiment. He did so several days ago, but as yet don't know whether or not his resignation has been accepted. His reason for resigning is because violent proslavery men have been appointed over him in this department. I am told that Lieut Col. Anthony has also resigned, but that Gen. Deitzler had refused to accept his resignation - well, between fact and rumor it is very difficult to come to any well settled conclusion as to ^{what} is, or what is likely to be.

In the last letter I wrote you, I sent a twenty dollar bill which I hope will get safely through. If I do not come home before long I shall send you more in the same way if this should reach you all right. I am not able to go on with the Command and the probability is that I shall resign in a few days unless the Regt should be mustered out of service soon. There is now a fresh rumor that the Kansas First and our Regt. are soon to be mustered out. The late Order of Gen. Halleck forbidding the absence of any officer from his Command for any reason, longer than seven days, obliges me to resign if unable to go on. A few more days will determine.

I have had a visit from Dr. Prescott and also from the Brigade Surgeon. They think I will



John Brown, Jr., correspondence

get better in a few months at most - that settled warm weather will probably bring me out all right again. This encourages me much, for I must confess, in spite of all my resolutions to keep up good spirits I have sometimes had a short fit of the Blues. To day it is wet and chilly and I am in more pain on such days than in warm, pleasant days; this goes to confirm ~~this~~ correctness of their opinion. The Winter Campaign has been a hard one on all the men and very severe on a few, among them is Uncle Henry Harmon of Lenox. His lungs seem to be much affected. I have made out a Certificate of Disability for him and he has applied for a Discharge which I think he will get. None of my men are seriously unwell but many are complaining, especially of colds. So far the Spring has been very backward here, the prairies are still black where the fires swept over them, occasionally the grass begins to show, but not much yet. How strange it seems when I think back to the time when we used to call Kansas our home. Now I look on every thing I see with different eyes, for they who make home to me are absent and I feel like a mere wanderer, a traveler in a strange land.

John Brown, Jr., correspondence

How true it is that "Home is where the heart is."

Your account of Johnnie's busy working and his milking exploits amused me much. How I do long to see you all again. It is almost dark and Mr. Sloat is just starting to the P.O. where my letter must be mailed to night if it goes tomorrow.

Kiss and kiss my darling boy for me and tell him I do love him very dearly - that I think about him a great many times a day and never forget him. - I do hate to send you any blank space but must this time. I will write you again soon and then I hope to tell you more news than I can now. - Give my love to all - I am glad Owen is still with you, hope he will stay at least until I come home or know for certain what I am to do. - Mr. Sloat is waiting and I must say good bye - I kiss you a fond good bye.

Truly and Faithfully, Your loving
John



John Brown, Jr., correspondence

Camp Wendell Phillips

Lawrence Kansas Apr. 18th/62

Friday eve,

My precious wife

Amos Slater has just come in with your dear letter of the 10th — last evening I think I sent you a letter to the P.O. I feel as if I want to write a word often if it is only a word. To day has been cold and clear nothing yet seems much like Spring. Every one here says the Spring is very backward. Our Regiment is now ordered to march for Fort Riley on Monday morning next and I suppose they will then leave for that place though I very much doubt about its ever going much beyond there. I have reluctantly given up all idea of going on now. Probably I shall be with it but little if any more. Dr Martin from Massachusetts our Brigade Surgeon, has prescribed for me a series of blisters along my spine, and about the size of a dollar, commencing at my neck and putting on a new one below the first as often as one is healed, and so continue until I have blistered my spine the whole length. But how little opportunity I have to go through such a process unless at home where I could feel that I am not a burden. — I have just rec'd a letter from

P.S. 3rd I have
this moment
rec'd a letter
from my dated
April 12th
All well — say
he has not heard
from you or
answer for a
long time —
Nothing further
from the Fort



John Brown, Jr., correspondence

P.S. 3rd I have
this moment
rec'd a letter
from Jay dated
April 12th
All well - says
he has not heard
from you or
Oscar for a
long time -
Nothing further
from the Fort

My precious hope

Since Slater has just come in

Friday eve,

Lawrence Kansas. April 18th 1862

Carth. Wendell Phillips

with your dear letter of the 10th - Last evening I thought
I send you a letter to the W. I feel as if I want to write
a word often if it is only a word. To day has been as
and clear nothing yet seems much like spring. Every one
here says the spring is very backward. Our Regiment
is now ordered to march for Fort Riley on Monday morning
next and I suppose they will have leave for that place
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little opportunity I have to go through such a process
unless at home where I could feel that I am not a
burden. — I have just rec'd a letter from

John Brown, Jr., correspondence

Alex King enclosing a power of attorney from George and Certificate to enable him to get his discharge. I have made out some of the preliminary papers to day. You ask about Truman Cressy. — I don't know why he has not written for he has been and still is in good health, and has in all respects proved himself a good soldier and true man. and so I can say of almost everyone of my men I have spoken of Merick more frequently in my letters because his folks are such near neighbors and would be more likely to enquire of you. — I wish I had time to mention the merits of each of these men, for they are certainly the most deserving body of men I ever saw together in a military capacity. — Amos Slater is the same faithful true hearted man as ever, and so I would say of all. It grieves me to know that I cannot follow them through all the fortunes of the present struggle in which we are engaged. — they are endeared to me by those fraternal ties which soldiers feel perhaps more than any other class of men. —

We now have a mail every day from Leavenworth, it leaves here every morning early and in order to go, must be mailed to night. So that I cannot to night write you as long a letter as I want to. — I will send my dear boy a little letter now

John Brown, Jr., correspondence

and soon send you another. Mr. A. M. Simpson

called to see me this afternoon. He sends his regards to you and Owen. Mr. Whitman also called a short time ago. He has grown very gray, but in other respects appears quite as he used to. — As soon as I can I will send you a good long letter, but I suppose, you would prefer to have me write often even if not so long. I wish I had some news, but nothing is now going on here of any special interest.

This Regt gave a grand Military Ball here a few evenings since inviting all the commissions of the other Regts now stationed here, it was given at the Eldridge House, and was a grand affair. ^{So I am informed, I could not go.} I enclose to you a ticket which I received and you may imagine and consider yourself as invited to dance with me in the first set with Clutch, and then with Hoyt, Bostwick, Lieut. Gannet, whom you remember at Chicago, &c &c — — —

Johnny wants a little letter I suppose on separate paper, and I will close for this time though my sheet is not full — I will write often. You do write me such good letters and so regularly too, I will try and keep up my part of the letter writing as well as I can. Give my love to all my

John Brown, Jr., correspondence

enquiring friends. — The Bugles are sounding for evening
Roll Call, and this letter must go right away to the
Office if it goes out tomorrow. Good night, my
Own darling. I fondly kiss you — good night
Faithfully Your own loving
John

P.S. Has the \$20- I sent by mail

Reached you safely?

P.S. Mr. Sloat has just returned with this letter which
I had sent by him to the Office — He found the office closed
and as I am too late for this mail I enclose some slips cut from
today's Leavenworth Conservative. By one you will see
that Johnson and Hoyt are both under arrest at Leavenworth
This has been done at the instigation of some proslavery
schemers at the Fort. I think on account of a speech lately
made by Col. Johnson in which he was especially severe

on some of these proslavery officials. I cannot imagine
what Hoyt is arrested for some free spoken words
which it is quite likely he has used "up at the Fort"
We shall soon know all about it and I will let you know
By the enclosed General Order, the probability now is
that instead of this force being sent to New Mexico it is to
be used to protect the Overland Mail Route to California
If this is so, it will take our men across the Plains and
scatter them in companies along the route from Fort Riley
to California — It looks more like this now than anything
else. — I will add a word in the morning — Again I
will say good night, dear precious wife and "you boy."

April 19th — The mail has not yet come
in from Leavenworth and I have no further news from
Johnson and Hoyt — The news of their arrest is causing much
excitement here. A rumor is afloat that they were released
by Cleveland and his men last night, but probably is untrue.
I will write you real often — The Order now is to march
on Monday. The Kansas First left today. I shall remain
here for some time at and will direct to me at Lawrence until
further notice. — Again my loved ones Good bye J.B.