

## John Brown, Jr., correspondence

### Section 5, Pages 121 - 150

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

KSHS Identifier: DaRT ID: 216668

Item Identifier: 216668

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Lawrence Kansas  
April 21<sup>st</sup> /62

My own loved wife,

Capr. Allen has just come in from Pauli and says he shall leave for home tomorrow morning and so I hasten to send you a word though I have nothing new to tell you

Yesterday morning our Regiment left for Fort Riley, to day I hear that an order was sent from the Fort ordering it to return. This however is a rumor or a message by what is here called "the grape vine telegraph" — Nothing new yet from Jennison. No charges have yet been made against him and the whole affair is here regarded as most extraordinary. I hear this evening that Hoyt will be released in a day or two — As soon as I have any



John Brown, Jr., correspondence

further news I will write you  
Mr. Sloat and Joe Chillery  
are here with me. I still  
have some hope that warm  
settled weather (of which we have  
had none yet) will bring me  
out. — I shall be able to judge  
better in a week or two more  
probably — and shall then  
decide whether to try and go on  
or resign and endeavor to get  
home —

The Company all came  
down in a body and bade me  
good bye. You may be sure  
it was hard for me to feel  
obliged to stay behind with the  
prospect, that I may not again  
join them. I could only say a  
few words, my emotions got  
where I could not talk —

I have this evening read  
a letter from Mr Adair. he  
says his son Charley has  
enlisted in the Second Regt  
Kansas Cavalry — He feels very

## John Brown, Jr., correspondence

Much alone, and I should judge  
by the tone of his letter that  
he feels badly about his going

Mr. Allen is waiting and  
I must send this without filling  
all the blank space. I did  
hope I should get a letter from  
you to day, but perhaps it may  
have been sent on to Fort Riley  
Have written the P.M. at Lawrence  
worth, to send my letters to me  
at Lawrence, where I want you  
to write to me until further  
notice

Kiss my darling boy  
and take as many yourself as  
I can send by mail — while  
Good bye again for a little  
my precious wife, and know  
that I am always your  
loving faithful  
John

## John Brown, Jr., correspondence

Compliments of Officers of First Kansas Cavalry,  
and would be pleased to meet *Left. Brown*  
and Lady, at Eldridge House, on Evening of Monday,  
April 14th.

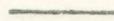
Major A. L. LEE,  
Capt C. S. MERRIMAN, } Committee.  
Capt W. S. JENKINS.

Present Card. - \* - - - - Not Transferrable

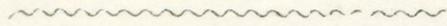
### PROGRAMME.



DINNER, - - - - - 9 O'CLOCK.



DANCING, - - - - - 11 O'CLOCK.



### ENGAGEMENTS.

- 1. Cotillon,.....
- 2. Cotillon,.....
- 3. Contra Dance, }  
Money Musk, }
- 4. Cotillon,.....
- 5. Fancy Dances,..
- 6. Cotillon,.....
- 7. Spanish Dance,.
- 8. Contra Dance, }  
Fishers Hornpipe }
- 9. Cotillon,.....
- 10. Fancy Dances,.
- 11. Cotillon,.....
- 12. Spanish Dance,
- 13. Cotillon,.....
- 14. Contra Dance }  
Highland Reel }
- 15. Cotillon,.....
- 16. Cotillon,.....

*Wealthy* -

## John Brown, Jr., correspondence

I will write you  
 every other  
 clear day to Mr  
 Holman that I  
 will write her as  
 soon as I can  
 in reply to her letter.  
 Part of most of  
 my letters are for  
 Martha so she  
 will not scold me  
 for not sooner  
 answering her letter  
 Again Good bye  
 Your John

Lawrence Kansas April 30<sup>th</sup> 1862

My own Darling wife;

Since I wrote you last  
 I received yours of the 15<sup>th</sup> enclosing a scrap dated  
 the 16<sup>th</sup> saying that Alex Foles had just come &  
 you and Johnnie were going to Wayne that day.  
 That letter came to Leavenworth, and in accordance  
 with directions was forwarded to me here, but I  
 fear that others of your letters have gone on  
 to Fort Riley. You write of sending one a day  
 or two before this - that one I have not received  
 I thought I should certainly get one from you today,  
 but the mail came in from Leavenworth and  
 brought me nothing. If I do not get letters when I  
 expect them I become extremely anxious about  
 you. I have heard from the boys today  
 at Fort Riley, they reached there in safety - all  
 well. The day after I wrote you last, who  
 should I see driving up but Jerry and Frank - They  
 stayed over night where I am stopping, and  
 next day left for Fort Scott on their way to  
 see the Refugee Indians encamped about

## John Brown, Jr., correspondence

I will write you  
very often  
Please say to Mrs  
Polman that I  
will write her as  
soon as I can  
in reply to her letter  
Part of most of  
my letters are for  
Martha so she  
will not scold me  
for not sooner  
and writing her letters  
Again Good bye  
Your John

Very soon Darling wife!

Since I wrote you last  
I received yours of the 15<sup>th</sup> the enclosing a book dated  
the 11<sup>th</sup> saying that Alex Fikes had just come &  
you and Johnnie were going to Wayne that day  
that letter came to Leavenworth, and in accordance  
with directions was forwarded to me here, but I  
fear that others of your letters have gone on  
to Short Hill. You write of sending me a day  
or two before this - that one I have not received  
I thought I should certainly get one from you today  
but the mail came in from Leavenworth and  
brought me nothing. If I do not get letters again I  
expect them I become extremely anxious about  
you. I have heard from the boys today  
at Short Hill, they reached there in safety - all  
well - the day after I wrote you last, who  
should I see driving up but John and Frank - they  
stayed over night where John stopping, and  
next day left for Short Hill on their way to  
see the Refugee Indians encamped about

## John Brown, Jr., correspondence

fifty miles South of there. Frank is going with him on this trip and on their return will stop a day or two at Osawatomie. — thence back by way of Lawrence to Leavenworth where he is engaged in business. He has a  $\frac{1}{3}$  interest in a wholesale store there under the name of Thompson, Woodruff & Co. His partners are from Chicago. Frank has the Agency of Wheeler & Wilson's Sewing Machines & also of Prince's Melodeons for the State of Kansas. She says that Jerry makes the trades and she pockets the profits. — Frank is a real smart, good girl. Charley Adair is enlisted in the Second Kansas Cavalry. He called to see me a few days before his Regiment left for Fort Riley. I think it is a pity he should enlist. His Father wrote me a real sorry letter about, it said he was all alone, no body to help him — No white men he could hire and few blacks he could hire that were worth any thing.

Hoyt is now released on his Parole — but is required to remain within the limits of Lawrence until his Case is disposed of. He and his wife both called on me to day — are in fine spirits — He is coming to Morrow with a Buggy to take me over to Mr Killhams where they are boarding and have a visit

## John Brown, Jr., correspondence

Short distance

By driving very slowly, I can stand it to ride a <sup>short distance</sup>, especially if I can get in a reclining position. —

By the Missouri Democrat of yesterday we learn that Col. Janison is released from confinement under \$20,000 bonds. He was serenaded by the Germans of St Louis night before last, and made them a speech a report of which I enclose to you.

His arrest and confinement as also Hoyts, was a most malignant piece of business and from present appearances I judge their enemies will be glad to drop them —

To days paper brings the news that New Orleans is occupied by our forces, if so, another great advance has been made. Late advices from New Mexico state that the Texans are abandoning that Territory and going Eastward to reinforce Beauregard at Corinth and Memphis. If this is a correct Report (and it seems likely to be) it is doubtful whether any expedition will go from here to New Mexico. Still all those Regiments that went to Fort Riley are fitting out to go. Next Friday's mail from Santa Fee will probably bring such word as will settle the question one way or the other.

Spring weather has at last come once more the prairies begin to look green — the plum and peach-trees are in bloom, and birds are

## John Brown, Jr., correspondence

Singing as merry as can be. But then who have I here to enjoy these things with me? My thoughts return constantly to you and I wonder how you all are. I can see you only in imagination. The same beautiful spring is with you too. Perhaps your stay at Wayne is the reason I have received no letter now for a number of days.

About myself, I have to say that for a day or two I have felt less pain, though I cannot much better bear the weight of stepping on my right foot than before. The weather for a few days has been beautiful, perhaps this is the reason I am feeling a little better, if so, I may be encouraged that permanent warm weather will effect a cure. I have not yet begun the blistering course presented by the Brigade Surgeon. The Surgeon of the Wisconsin <sup>13<sup>th</sup></sup> called to see me a day or two since, and thinks the same result can be obtained by Scarrifying and Cupping. I have dreaded to commence this course of treatment while I am <sup>am</sup> among comparative strangers, since it must put me in a more helpless condition than I now am. If I were at home I should begin the blistering course at once, for I have a good deal of faith that it would do some good. — I do hate to resign, but probably shall in a few days. — Do write me very often & direct to me here until further notice. Did you get the \$20. I sent you by mail? — In one of my last letters I sent a little letter to "you boy" — dear me, how I do want see you all again. Perhaps I shall in a few weeks more. — My sheet is full and I must again say goodbye. — This evening I am in more pain again — it is going to storm soon I guess. — Hoping I shall get a good long letter from you tomorrow. — Kiss Johnny for me. Always your faithful loving son



## John Brown, Jr., correspondence

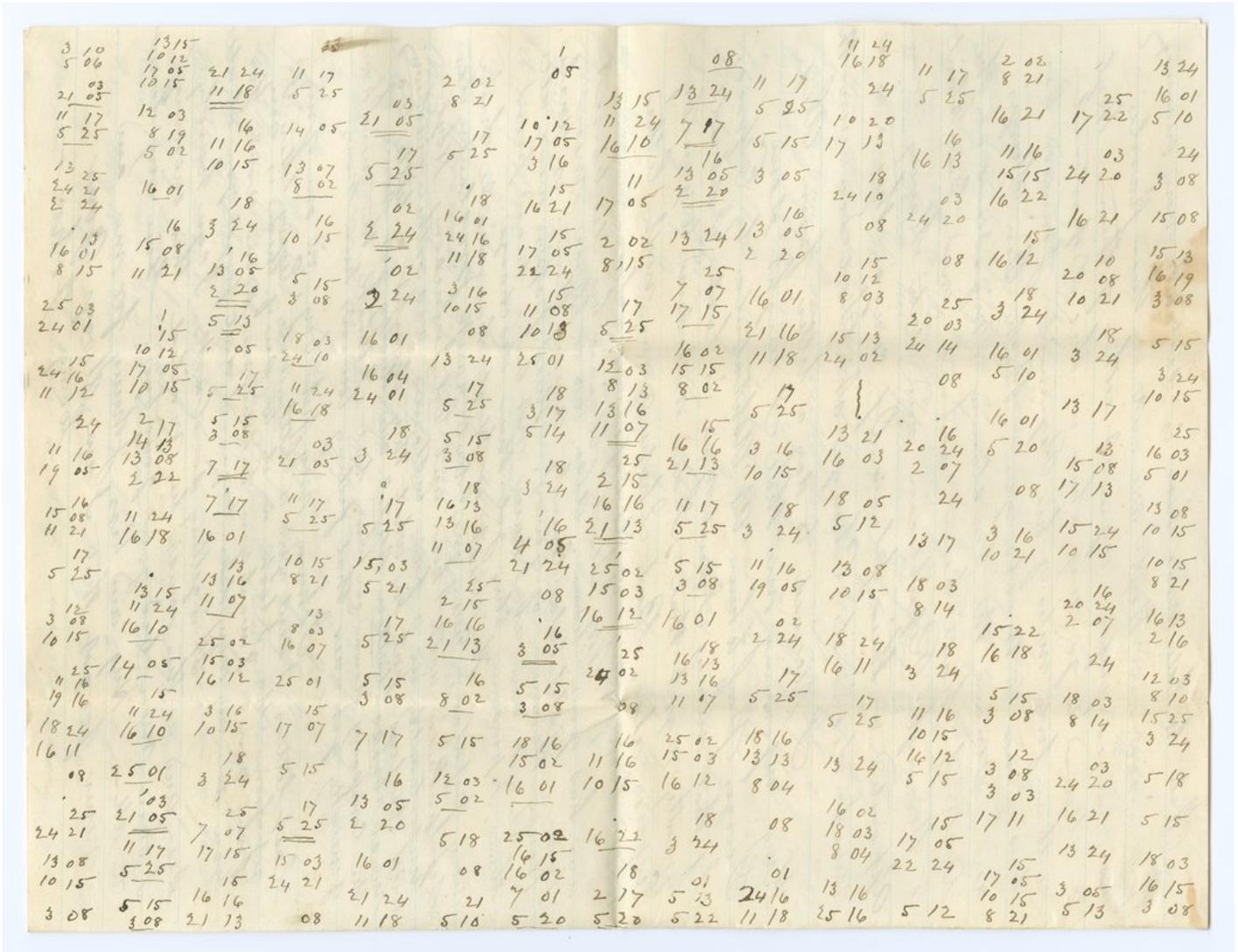
Lawrence Kansas  
May 8<sup>th</sup> 1862

My own Loved Wife:-

Your last dated April 27<sup>th</sup> fortunately <sup>was not</sup> sent to Fort Riley as some at least of your letters have been. - I have twice sent letters to the P.M. at Seamanworth to send my letters here and not send them to Fort Riley but I presume he forgets. It is only in this way that I can account for not getting a letter ~~from~~ acknowledging the receipt of \$20. I sent to you some weeks since. Possibly it is lost though I hope not. I enclosed a \$20 - U.S. Treasury Note and sent it to you by mail, directing the same as usual. I am sure I mentioned sending it <sup>also in</sup> another letter I wrote you.

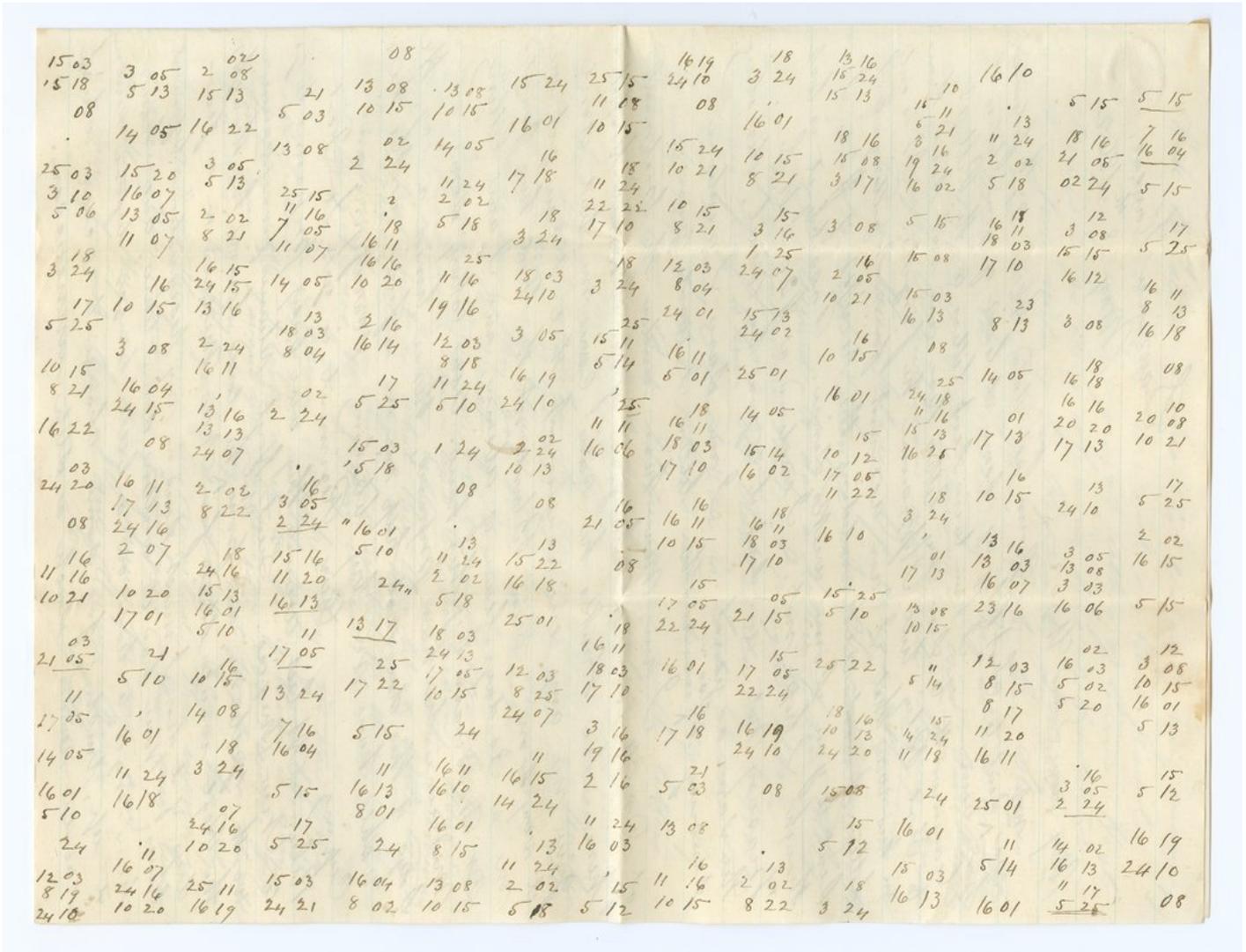
I am now here under the treatment of Dr Woodward Surgeon of the General Hospital here. He thinks he can cure me but don't give me any encouragement that I can get over it very soon. Gen Blunt at the Fort has granted me a 30 days leave of absence, and I am letting Dr Woodward try his hand. Am taking some medicine he has prepared, three times a day. He says if this does not help me in a few weeks he would have me try blistering, scarifying and cupping. - Our Regiment is yet at Fort Riley. At last accounts they were busy preparing to go to New Mexico. Lieut Hoyt returned from Seamanworth yesterday, and from <sup>what</sup> he could learn he thought the Regt would start for New Mexico in a few days, if it does, I must send in my resignation before it leaves. Have had it written some time, but have been urged to hold on a little longer before sending it up, trusting for some change to occur which would render such a step unnecessary.

## John Brown, Jr., correspondence



A handwritten ledger page with approximately 15 columns and 30 rows of entries. The entries consist of numbers and dates, often written in a shorthand format. Some numbers are underlined, and some dates are written as month/day (e.g., 11/17, 12/03). The handwriting is in dark ink on aged, slightly yellowed paper. The overall layout is organized but dense, typical of a personal or business ledger from the mid-19th century.

## John Brown, Jr., correspondence



A handwritten ledger page with approximately 15 columns and 30 rows of entries. The entries consist of numbers and dates, often written in a shorthand format (e.g., MM-DD, MM-DD-YY). Some entries are underlined or have small annotations. The handwriting is in dark ink on aged, slightly yellowed paper. The page is oriented vertically in the image but appears to be a standard horizontal ledger page.

## John Brown, Jr., correspondence

Well the late news here is certainly very encouraging. Johnson and Hoyt are out on their parole. No charges preferred against either of them. Hoyt is allowed to go any where in this Department within forty miles of his Regiment. Johnson has gone to Washington. Both Gen. Sturgis and Denver the Provisional Brigadiers in this District have been removed and Gen. Plant a thorough Republican and Anti Slavery man appointed in their place. Of course there is a most decided change at Fort Leavenworth.

I received to day a letter from Alex King, informing me that I might send George's pay to him at Ashtabula by Express. If that money I sent you is lost, I shall greatly regret that I did not send to you by Express, also. But I hope your next letter will bring news of its safe arrival.

My float obtained his discharge & has gone home. Also, two or three men from Ashtabula County. Among them is Uncle Henry Aaronson of Genoa. Their papers were all made out and as I have not since heard from them, I presume, they got their discharge.

The arrest of Hoyt has made him very popular. Every one but rank proslaveryites sympathized with him and Col. Johnson, Hoyt unfortunately in a few instances was rather overbearing with the boys - but in what they thought a little too much "brass-button style" and thereby got some of the Company down on him, but I think the men have generally got over that feeling towards him now.

Johnny my pet boy, in one of my last letters I sent you a little note. Every letter I get from Ma I look in it to see if there is any from you. I want you to send me some words for you are my very dear boy. I don't forget you at all.

It is getting so dark I can hardly see, and as this must be mailed this evening I once more bid you good bye. Give my love to all - Hug and Kiss Johnny for me and never forget that I am, Always Your loving John

## John Brown, Jr., correspondence

*Military Relations  
get the bones  
of genuine  
material.  
Byard will  
surely will  
for all these  
Noble men.  
I will soon  
write you again.  
Come to all  
things Johnny  
and let me  
hear from  
loving John*

Lawrence Kansas  
Monday May 12<sup>th</sup> 1862

My own loving wife:—

Joseph Chillery has just brot  
me yours of the 4<sup>th</sup> containing a scrap in figures  
What a dear letter. Three or four days  
since I sent you a letter a half sheet written  
in that way. — To day I sent to Gen  
Blunt at Fort Leavenworth my resignation as  
follows.

Lawrence Kansas  
May 12<sup>th</sup> 1862

To

Brig. Genl. Jas. G. Blunt  
Commanding Department of Kansas  
Fort Leavenworth Ks

General:—

I hereby respectfully resign the office  
of Captain of Company K. 7<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Kansas  
Volunteers to take effect June 1<sup>st</sup> 1862

My reason for so doing is that for  
several weeks past I have been unfitted for  
duty in consequence of Chronic rheumatism (Sciatic)  
— am still entirely disabled thereby, and am  
without any fair prospect of soon recovering.

## John Brown, Jr., correspondence

Military Relations  
yet the bonds  
of genuine  
fraternal  
regard will  
ever exist  
for all those  
noble men  
I will soon  
write you again.  
Love to all  
Miss Johnny  
and bid me  
her your  
loving John

My dear loving wife: —  
Joseph Chittling has just had  
me open of the Lt containing a draft in figures  
What a dear letter. —  
Since I sent you a letter a day or two ago  
in that way. — To day I sent to Sam  
about a Fort Leavenworth my resignation as  
follows.

Dear Mr. Kansas,  
May 12th 1862

To  
Brig. Genl J. R. Hunt  
Commanding Department of Kansas  
Fort Leavenworth Kc

General: —  
I have by respectfully resign the office  
of Captain of Company No. 9th Regiment of Kansas  
Volunteers to take effect June 1st 1862  
My reason for so doing is that for  
several weeks past I have been afflicted for  
duty in consequence of Chronic Rheumatism seated  
— and still entirely disabled thereby, and am  
without any fair prospect of soon recovering.

Samson Kansas  
Monday May 12th 1862

## John Brown, Jr., correspondence

Believing that the good of the service requires that I should give up an office in the Army the duties of which for the above reason I cannot perform, I would respectfully ask your speedy acceptance of the above resignation.

Very truly,

Your obedient servant  
John Brown Jr.  
Capt. Company K. 7th Regt  
Kansas Volunteers

This resignation will probably be accepted by Genl. Blunt. of this I shall know in a few days.

It will require the rest of this month to arrange my affairs here as I am 130 miles from the Regiment - have to transact business by letter and wait the motion of others, including the Circumlocution office at the Fort. So I do not expect to reach home this month - How I wish I was home, fairly home for the journey will of course be quite an undertaking for me. However when I get to the cars the worst part of the journey will be over, I hope.)

Lieutenant Hoyt was unconditionally released and left to day for Fort Riley to join his Regiment - No charge was preferred against him whatever. Col. Jennison is yet at Washington, and I presume he will be discharged from arrest in the same way and thus will probably end that

## John Brown, Jr., correspondence

Miserable farce begun and carried on to gratify the spite of certain pro-slavery officials.

Sergeant Peck of my Company left to day with Hoyt for Fort Riley. He with another man had been sent to Kansas City to recover a horse and a deserter from Company F of our Regt. He got the horse but the man had escaped. Peck brought good word of the health of the Company. The expedition to New Mexico I suppose is a fixed fact.

One thing in regard to that expedition, if the men are sent where they can't do any damage to the peculiar institution, they will have this consolation that they will not go to an unhealthy region, but on the contrary go where it is remarkably healthy.

Hoyt's wife will probably remain here with her friend who came on with her and who married a friend of Hoyt's by the name of Ward from Massachusetts.

Am looking for Jerry here every day. Indeed I had quite set my heart on that little place which you say Rebecca bought. Well, I don't know but everything is for the best. I suppose it is best to think so any way. Some other place we can find doubtless, which may please us as well.

To get a good little place which we can make into a home worthy to be called a home, is with me a thorough ambition. I know you will second every effort of mine in that direction.

You still do not mention having

## John Brown, Jr., correspondence

Received the letter in which I sent you Twenty Dollars. Sergeant Peck says a number of letters came for me at Fort Riley - that he and Amos Slater remainted them to me at this place. But as yet I have received only one of your letters returned from ~~the~~ there. I am sure I can't imagine what has become of them. Perhaps you acknowledged the receipt of the money is some of your letters sent there. At least I hope so, for I don't like to think that we have lost \$20 - in that way - You speak of writing to Mrs Scoville. I must send a letter to the friends at Grand Rapids immediately. Haven't written a word there since I left last winter. May be I have lost some friendship there by my apparent neglect. Can't help it if I have, as I have done the best I could under the circumstances.

Dear Johnny, he had so much business on hand he couldn't find time to write his name for me. I have now begun really to look forward to the time when I can "greet you all once more". Of course I shall get more and more impatient to set my face towards home as the time approaches when I can - This month must at least pass before I can leave. Don't fail to write me ~~here~~ very often until further notice. I would be glad to go to Osawatomie before I return, but don't know as I can.

I have thus far delayed sending in my resignation until to day more to gratify the wish of others than from any reasonable prospect of being able to go on with the command. At the same time it has been a hard thing to do. I have become very much attached to my Company, to be obliged here than go on without me had been one of the hardest things to make up my mind to. But I must, and now the step is taken which severs our

## John Brown, Jr., correspondence

*(You may write me at Leavenworth, Kansas, care of Thompson & Co. Good bye. Always your John)*

Leavenworth, Kansas  
Thursday May 21<sup>st</sup> 1862

My own dearly loved Wife;

Yesterday I rec'd yours dated the 14<sup>th</sup> containing a little flower, and in which you say "I sent you a long letter yesterday that letter, and doubtless many others you have sent me I have failed to get. A few days since I got two from Fort Riley they had been taken out of their proper envelopes and enclosed in in a new one. Somebody has certainly been taking liberties with my letters. In one of them you acknowledge the receipt of the twenty dollars I sent you. Glad to know that the money is not lost. In one of my last letters I wrote you that I had sent on my resignation. It will if accepted (which I presume it will be) take effect June 1<sup>st</sup>. I sent up my resignation on the 12<sup>th</sup>. The Regiment was just starting for New Mexico two companies had already gone when an order came to Gen. Plant ordering all the available forces now in Kansas to Corinth on the Mississippi. A messenger was at once dispatched to Ft Riley ordering to get the entire force they will probably be in Leavenworth by the last of this week when I hope to see them, if I can get over to Leavenworth. Perry and Frank

## John Brown, Jr., correspondence

Came here last evening on their way again to Fort Scott. It has rained hard for two or three days and the roads are now so very muddy that they have almost given up the notion and this morning they went to Topeka. Will return here tomorrow if the roads dry up so they think it best to undertake the journey now.

My time here drags wearily away. This beautiful morning, how I want to be stirring around, but am yet compelled <sup>to</sup> use my crutches every step I take, and besides Dr Woodward advises me not to use my leg much. I am not in quite so much pain as I was, and though I am yet about as lame as ever I feel encouraged.

Ferry says although Gen Blunt has ordered back all those destined for New Mexico, only the Infantry have yet been called for at Corinth. If the Cavalry cannot go it will be a great disappointment to most of the men. There they would probably have a chance to do something, instead of going away to New Mexico to do escort or garrison duty on the borders of civilization and quite out of the world as they feel. Nothing makes active wide awake soldiers more restless and unhappy than the dull monotony of camp life. Nothing to stir their blood but an occasional drill. It may be that the boys will have a chance yet to "hear drums and see a battle" on a large scale rather than be consigned to the "overland route"

## John Brown, Jr., correspondence

or to New Mexico and although they had become in a measure reconciled this order I presume a great shout will go up when they get the order to return to Leavenworth. I have been so long shut up to a life of comparative inactivity that it seems to me almost any change would be for the best. If I could go with the boys to Corinth I might have a chance to aid in a battle which will perhaps decide the fortunes of the war, my only opportunity it may be, to take an active part in the contest on a large scale. But it seems to be otherwise ordered, I suppose for the best.

Dr Harrington our Regimental Surgeon has just arrived from Fort Riley, he says the health of the Regiment is very good - that the men are very much elated with the new order countermanding that which was to send them to New Mexico He thinks they will get to Leavenworth about Saturday I shall try to see them there if possible.

(You will probably ask when I think I shall start for home. If I am able to undertake the journey, I shall try to start the first week in June, shall stop probably a day or two in Chicago to rest; but dear me it seems like waiting a long time to see you. Johnny says "when he sees me coming he will run and meet me," will tell him I can hardly wait. I want to see him so much, It was in October that I last saw him with Owen, trudging on home from near

## John Brown, Jr., correspondence

Pizarro Bissell. How true it is, we almost always think of those who are absent as we saw them last I almost always think of Johnny as he disappeared at the turn in the road towards Mr. Pulsipher. His little grey round-about coat was the last I saw then. I must not look back any more, but choke down every sad emotion and resolutely push on. How long the time seems to me since then, and now as I almost begin to count the weeks if not the days when I can look on your dear faces once more I can hardly wait. I don't wait with patience

I had made calculations on going to Osawatomie, and also to Mr Partidges. I would be glad to visit Fredericks' grave but dont know as it would be best for me to try to go. It may be that Jeremiah will go down there in some easy riding buggy and that I can go with him.

I shall probably sell my horse here he coked himself badly some weeks ago and is get lame which will I fear, cause me to lose something on his sale. This morning I gave Jerry \$45 (George Kings first ~~two~~ months pay) to take to the Express office to be sent to his Father at Abitahala. Shall do the best I can to get his discharge and also what is yet due him to bring home with me for him. I have been trying to find time to answer Mrs Holman's letter also those I have lately received from Fanny and Rebecca, but have some business for the men of my Company of one kind and another almost constantly to attend to when I can do anything. Several of my men have been discharged in consequence of disability their papers I have made out, and this I have done at odd times as I could. Please say to Mrs Holman that I hope to get time to answer her good letter if I dont she mustnt think hard of me. Say to Martha that she is just as dear girl as ever - that she must not measure my friendship by the number of letters I write to her especially. I send you one of those beautiful pink flowers which begin now to come up among the grass. Write



5/21/62  
P.S. — I looked out a moment  
since and saw a lady coming dressed  
in deep mourning whose countenance  
seemed familiar. As she came in  
I recognized Mrs Jenkins  
widow of Gaius Jenkins you  
would of course remember her  
very well. She seems as she  
used to except wearing a rather  
melancholy expression. We had  
a regular talk over old times —  
times which after all I do not  
recall with any degree of satisfaction  
these bitter days of imprisonment  
how singularly fresh they come  
before me again. She sends  
her regards to you. After looking at  
your picture a long time, she said "I  
can almost hear again the old talks  
we used to have about G. W. Brown when  
she used to come up to my tent".  
She couldnt stay but a little while.  
I think hers is about the third or fourth  
familiar face I have yet seen in  
Kansas —

## John Brown, Jr., correspondence



Handwritten correspondence entries on aged paper, organized in columns. The entries consist of numbers and dates, often with horizontal lines underneath. The text is written in cursive and includes various numerical notations such as 24 03, 13 05, 2 02, 14 05, 5 17, 11 13, 11 24, 3 08, 16 11, 2 18, 3 08, 17 13, 8 15, 11 18, 5 25, 5 20, 16 22, 3 08, 16 13, 25 22, 1 24, 2 24, 16 22, 5 15, 8 16, 10 13, 17 22, 18 08, 08, 5 12, 3 08, 16 04, 12 03, 5 02, 8 02, 8 21, 8 14, 11 16, 21 05, 16 01, 16 22, 5 02, 5 15, 08, 16 01, 11 14, 5 10, 3 18, 5 13, 12 03, 5 02, 11 13, 5 13, 8 02, 15 15, 5 17, 2 02, 5 24, 08, 16 02, 5 25, 17 15, 5 15, 5 17, 08, 5 18, 08, 5 21, 15 13, 15 16, 5 25, 8 22, 5 25, 5 15, 3 08, 5 10, 24 02, 11 21, 13 04, 25, 15 03, 3 08, 08 24, 03, 8 24, 17, 5 25, 24 02, 25 01, 08, 19 16, 24 21, 7 17, 12 24, 5 25, 25 01, 08.



Lawrence City, Ks  
Friday May 30th 1862

My own Darling Wife:—  
I came here from Lawrence about three days since to see the men of my Company before they left. — Yesterday the Kansas (of our Regt) and the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin left on Steam Boats for Corinth or Washington they did not know which until they should get to St. Louis, but probably for Washington. To be obliged to <sup>say</sup> good bye to them and to some perhaps for the last time was one of the hardest trials of my life. I am sure I shall never again see another set of men like them together. They seemed to me like brothers. They day before they left they presented with a beautiful sword and belt and

## John Brown, Jr., correspondence

a pair of Revolvers, dear noble men  
they have gone and I feel alone. May  
Heaven protect them always and  
wherever they may go. —

After a good deal of trouble  
I have succeeded in getting George  
Kings Discharge for him, and to day  
I got the balance of his pay for him  
which I will bring to him when I  
return home. I have now got to  
sell my horse and then I shall start  
for home but as my horse is still  
lame I shall have some difficulty  
in disposing of him especially for near  
what he is worth — If the distance  
home were not so great and I was  
able to take care of him on the way  
I would take him home rather than  
sell him here. — as it is, I hope to  
get him disposed of and get on as  
far as Chicago by the latter part  
of next week — After resting a day or  
two there I shall come immediately



## John Brown, Jr., correspondence

home, stopping a day at Cleveland  
Perhaps, and perhaps not. Will  
write you again before I leave  
here and then I shall say more  
definitely when I shall be at  
Ashtabula where I hope to meet  
you —

I have had no letter from  
you for a long time. In my last  
at Lawrence I think I wrote you  
to direct to me here, Care of Thompson  
Woodruff & Co, but perhaps the Post,  
here has forwarded it on to Lawrence  
At any rate, I am most anxious to  
hear from you. I have very much  
wanted to go to Osawatomie, especially  
to visit Frederick's grave, but it is  
now so far and it is so difficult for me  
to go that, in all probability I shall  
not go. Emma Adair is here on  
a visit to Frank. Jerry is here  
now. — Though I do so much  
want to go to Osawatomie, I am

## John Brown, Jr., correspondence

anxious to see you - to get home  
where I can if possible get cured  
of this distressing lameness -

I must close or be too late  
to have this mailed to night - Kiss  
my darling boy and tell him that  
I expect to see him in a few more  
days.

One more I kiss you good  
night -

Always your faithful, loving  
husband  
John Brown, Jr.



## John Brown, Jr., correspondence

soon leaving me to come as soon as possible & go to Pa & attend to the business before migration of I can't if not, then come over to the Adams House Ottawa when I can - I mean much in debt to this, as being the worst time I have about one all paper of being with you on Thanksgiving Day - when I do much please to be. I can no more leave Jasper than I could a morning man. - Who will be as faithful to my Johnny as he should be in equal need? -

Madison House, Madison Indiana  
 Monday Novem 23<sup>rd</sup> 1833

Last evening I wrote of my arrival about 10 o'clock, & that I would write again to day, probably from Cincinnati. This morning I went to the Hospital found Sappers Ward No 1 - Section 1<sup>st</sup> at Cot No 27. The boy didn't know me as I had my glasses on - but peering intensely through them, he came forward half believing & half doubting his senses; his face flushed with excitement & with tears in his eyes grasped my hand - He knew my voice though I did not his as he said in a whisper "is this you Uncle John" - I need not say that my womanly weakness, showed themselves at my eyes. - I was glad yet very sad, for Jasper in the compassion of his