

Mahalah Jay to George W. Martin

In this letter to George W. Martin of the Kansas State Historical Society, Mahalah Jay of Richmond, Indiana, discusses her early life in Kansas. According to Jay, her parents came to Kansas in 1837 to help open the Quaker's Shawnee Mission on the outskirts of what later became Kansas City. Jay states that "my own memory though then only a child holds in stone many an incident of that pioneer work." Most importantly, Jay tells Martin that she can provide a good deal of information on their lives and their work.

Creator: Jay, Mahalah

Date: March 3, 1902

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Richmond, Ind., 3/31, 1902

Rev. W. Martin,
Topeka, Kans.

Dear Friend:

I am in receipt of your letter of March 21, referring to a letter written to you by Wm H. Coffin of Pasadena Cal. giving information in regard to Friends' mission among the Shawnee Indians in Johnson Co. Kans. and giving my name as one who could assist you to an account of that mission, &c.

It is true that my parents went there in 1837, and opened that mission. My own memory though then ^{or} a child holds in store many an incident of that pioneer work. I have access to the Minutes of the committee in charge of that mission from its beginning to near its close, and to the annual reports made to Indiana Yearly Meeting of Friends on the subject, and to a small amount information from letters and diary preserved. I have my father's portrait but not my mother's. She died in 1844 leaving none. Of course I have the information to give a sketch of their lives. I should be much interested in writing for you the historical sketch you ask, as completely as these materials would enable me to do it. but I am fully occupied with other work, and cannot possibly see the time at command for doing it, not very soon at least.

(over)

Mahalah Jay to George W. Martin

Thanking you for the report of the Kans. State
Historical Society for the year ending Jan. 21, 1902, I

am,

Very Respectfully,

Mahalah Jay.