

Daniel L. Chandler to John Stillman Brown

This letter was written by Daniel L. Chandler from Paola, Kansas, to John Stillman Brown, a Unitarian minister who lived west of Lawrence. The first portion of Chandler's letter describes a young soldier named James, apparently recuperating from illness and under Brown's care and supervision in Lawrence. Chandler speaks of promotions and new officers in the army and his contentment with his "humble position" as hospital steward. He also writes of his popularity with the troops and his efforts to obtain "comforts" for them.

Creator: Chandler, Daniel L.

Date: April 22, 1862

Callnumber: John Stillman Brown Coll. #300, Box 2, Correspondence Jan.-June, 1862

KSHS Identifier: DaRT ID: 220246

Item Identifier: 220246

www.kansasmemory.org/item/220246

KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Daniel L. Chandler to John Stillman Brown

Paula, Miami, Co. Kansas April 22^d 1862

Dear Friend Brown

Your favor of the 11th is received via Whamondotte. I am happy to hear from you at any time, but especially so, when health, and life, is so uncertain, as with us. My health continues pretty good, so much so, that I am at times surprised, when so many younger men are taken sick, in the hospital, who were employed as nurses, etc. I

I am glad to hear that James is so well. It will take some time before he will fully recover his strength. He has been so very low. For a long time, Dr. Scott had but little hope of his recovery, but, some ~~reason~~ I always thought, that with care, and attention he would regain his health and strength. During our long march through western Missouri, he had a hard time, and I kept him in my tent, where I had blankets sufficient, and I was really glad, when I got to Fort Scott. But he had a hard fever, with congestive chills, after that, and beside his lungs were affected. But now, with plain substantial food, with moderate labor, as he gets able to work, will ^{bring} restore him if any thing will.

If his health permits, my wish is, that he attend school, or studies at home, as you think best. You are the best judge, of such matters. I want him to have as good an education as possible, to give him under the circumstances. He has had but little knowledge of books heretofore, and it may be that it will soon be irksome for him to study, and if such should be the case, he will be willing to assist Charles, on the farm. Those that knew him in Arkansas, ~~say~~ that he was a smart active boy, willing to work, and especially fond of breaking wild steers, young as he was, he was often sent with our ox team many miles with tar. and turpentine to sell, and was always considered faithful and trustworthy. With proper encouragement, he may make a tolerable scholar, yet, and nothing would give me more pleasure, than to learn that he was making progress in his studies. I have sent him his descriptive roll, which will enable him to get his pay in any place, when the paymaster comes around. Though his discharge is made, and yet it is not perfected, but will be before long, but like it is done, he will draw pay. I thank you for your kind wishes, which your recent letter expresses, but there is so much competition, for every position of importance, or profit and such extraordinary, not to say unfair efforts made to get those places, that I am quite willing to remain in the humble position, that I now occupy. And besides I think that I can be of more benefit to the soldiers, where I am, than I could be in a higher, better, and more profitable position. We have march

Daniel L. Chandler to John Stillman Brown

from Wyandotte to this place, and have been consolidated with 3^d Regt. the two forming the tenth. Our old staff officers have been mustered out, and we have a new batch, of Cols, surgeons etc. It is not even certain that I retain my place as hospital steward, but I feel an uneasiness upon the subject. If I take the position of high ^{grade} ~~rank~~, I certainly ^{might} have a much easier time, than at present. But if the question were left to the soldiers, they would be nearly unanimous in my favor. Even now a paper recommending me, is in circulation, and nineteen ~~out of~~ every twenty will sign it, if they get a chance. But one thing you may rest assured, and that is if I had the means, I would hire a team, and convey my stores which my eastern friends have so generously furnished me at my own expenses, for the quarters master is disposed to grumble, because I insist in having my "comforts" carried with the command so that they may be used for the benefit of the soldier when wounded, or diseased for a way it may be, from friends, and in a country where nothing fit for a sick man can be obtained. But I have them with me now and intend to keep them, unless absolutely refused by the powers that be. -- Meantime almost every rumor is rife in camp, among others it is said, that ~~Week~~ our old Col. will soon be here, and forbid, or rather dissolve our marriage with the 3^d assume the command, and then -- well you will have to wait for further developments.

I have just received a letter from N. Ipswich, and though some of it is of a private nature, yet it will do no harm to enclose in this, for you must be deeply interested in all that concerns our native town. It is from Nancy Chandler, my oldest brother's daughter. The good people some months ago, sent me a box of comforts, for my boys, and it contained many articles, which have been of immense benefit to our sick. The box was sent by express, and I had to pay twenty six dollars, and twenty six cents to pay the freight. But I was satisfied, and glad to get it even if the freight had been even more than it was. But it seems they have generously voted to pay the freight, and wish me to indicate where it may be sent with safety. I shall request them to send it to yourself, for it is very uncertain where I may be, when it arrives. Please, if you receive money or a bank draft, to acknowledge it, and keep the same till you hear from me. The good people of N. Ipswich will feel anxious about "donal" till they are satisfied that it is in safe hands. I do not expect, nor did I ask them to remunerate me, and there is, has of me the means of being still further useful. Truly the much more is good in man, after all.

I hope that this hasty letter will find Mrs. Brown fully restored to health, and my prayer is, that your life and health may be long continued, and that you may be successful in intellectual, better views of our duty to God, and our duty to man, than those that have been taught in this western world. Yours truly, Daniel L. Chandler