

Kansas historical quarterly

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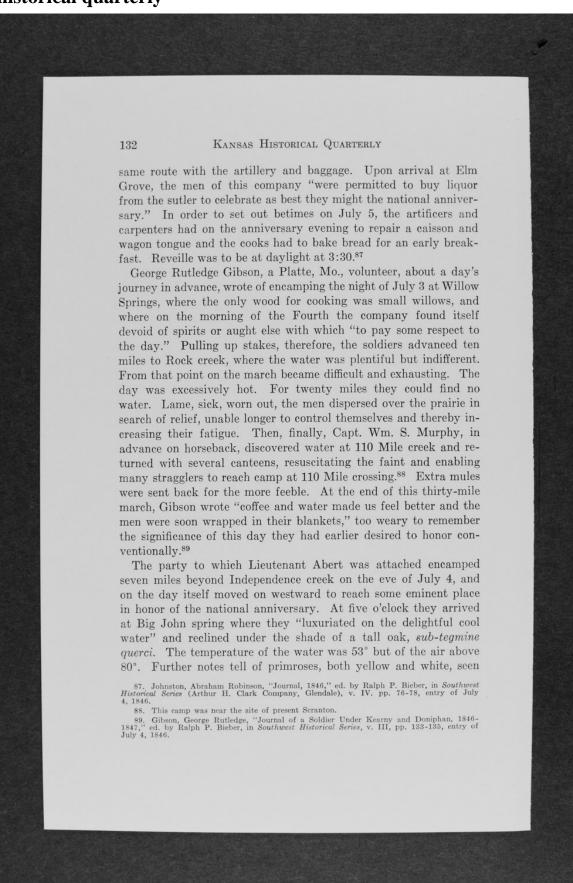
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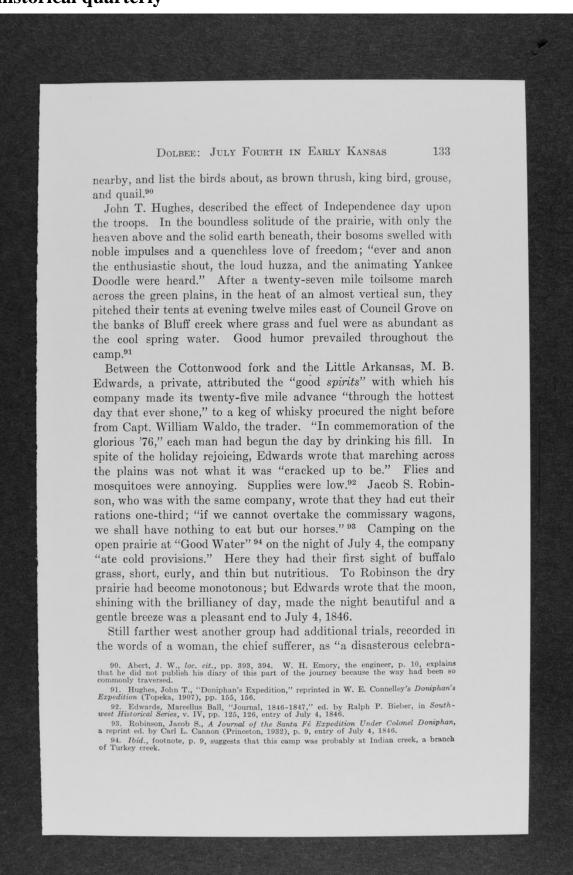
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KANSAS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

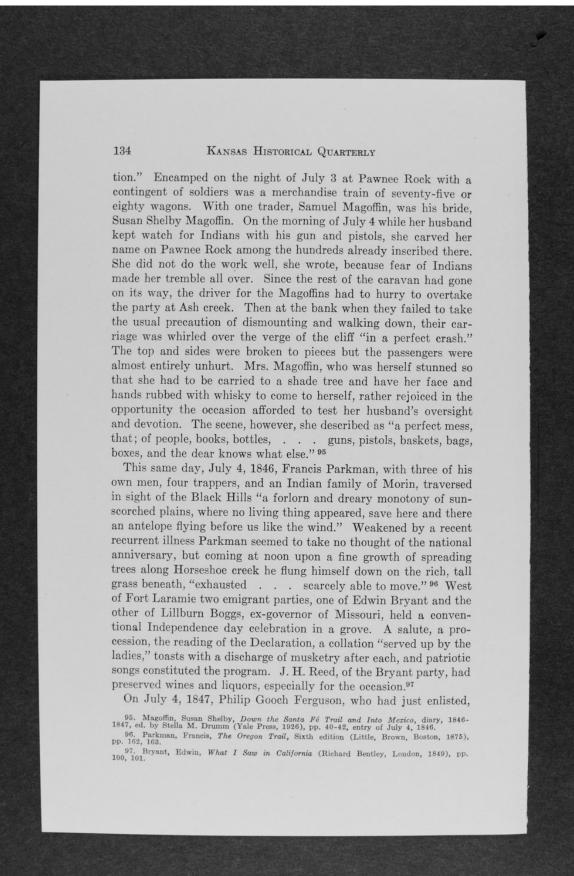




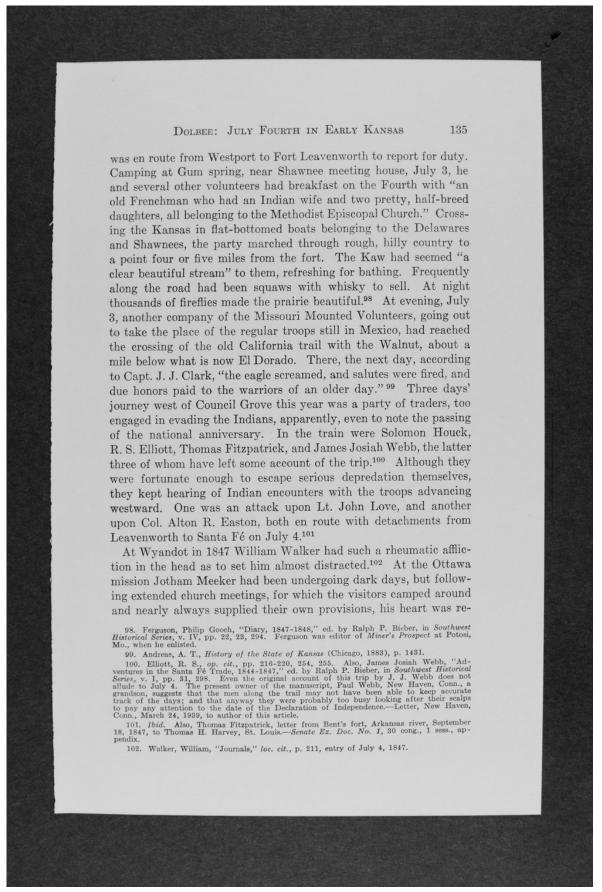




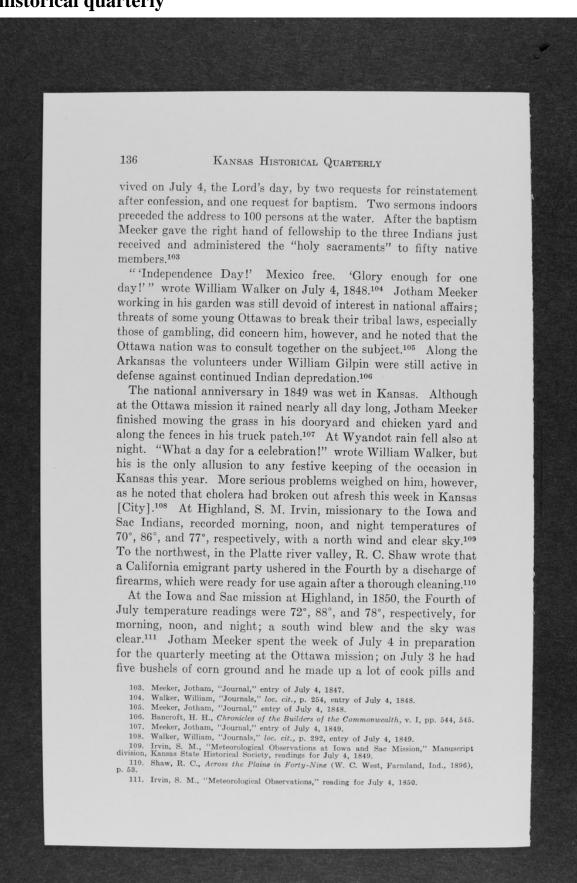










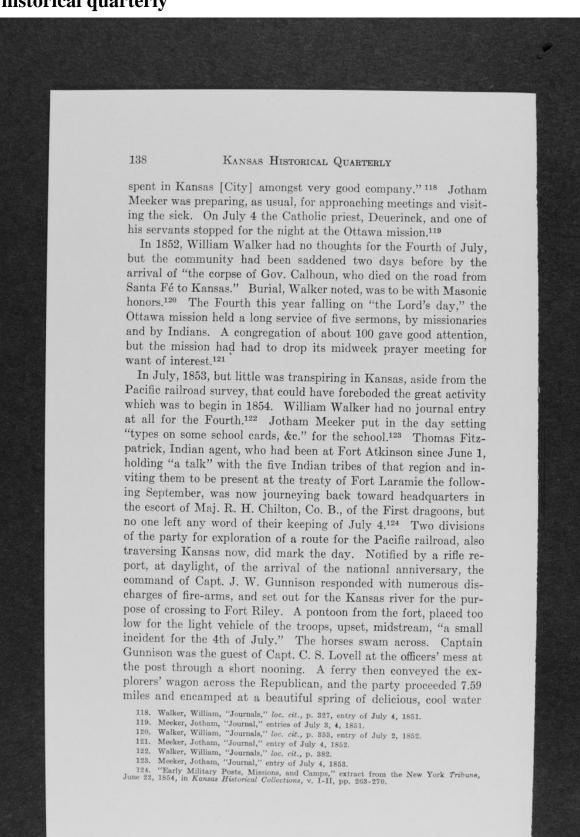




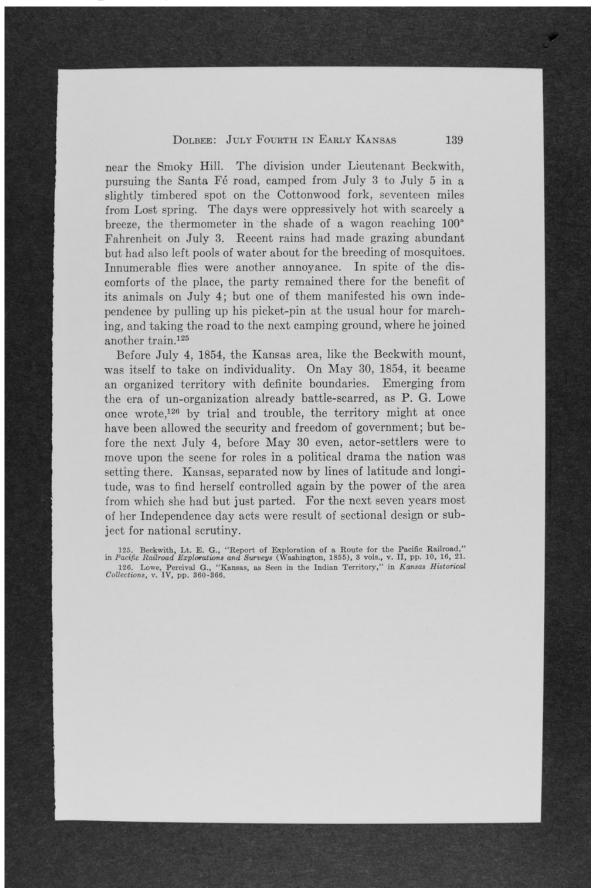
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DOLBEE: JULY FOURTH IN EARLY KANSAS 137 anti-cathartic pills, &c.; on July 4 he held religious talks with two persons, attended a prayer meeting, and made further preparations for quarterly assembly on July 6.112 The cholera had become so prevalent in the Kansas [City] vicinity now that William Walker referred to it daily in the few journal entries he took time to make. On both June 28 and July 5 deaths from it occurred; on July 6 citizens were fleeing from Kansas but "this is folly." 113 The only allusions to patriotic significance of the day again were in the diaries of travelers already well to the northwest. Franklin Langworthy, between Green river and Fort Bridger, spent "this celebrated day" on dry and dusty roads across swells of bleak and barren land. 114 John Steele wrote of an all-day celebration by Western emigrants then approaching the Sweetwater and Independence Rock. Shortly after midnight, July 3, the boys of the writer's own division brought an immense pile of dry sage into the camp and fired it. Volleys with rifles and pistols elicited three hearty cheers, echoed by neighboring trains. With a national salute at dawn, the party started early across the ashy plain, strewn with carcasses of oxen and horses. Encamping at 3 p.m. on the Sweetwater, both men and beasts refreshed themselves at the clear, cool rivulet, and relaxed until 10 p. m., when the camp-fires were replenished and a shout arose rolling from camp to camp. Then a discharge of fire-arms closed the celebration. As the fires waned, only a wolf's plaintive whine broke the stillness. 115 Farther west, near Salt Lake, where wild sage and dust were "about the only thing in the eye," C. W. Smith, of a party rushing to the gold region from Weston, Mo., wrote on July 4, "to the travel-worn emigrant in the eternal wilds, this day's remembrances hardly stir the sluggish blood." 116 The day when the first ground was broken in St. Louis for the Pacific railroad, "July 4th, Annus Domini, 1851," wrote R. S. Elliott, "was the beginning of a new era of industrial civilization between the Mississippi and the Pacific ocean." 117 People in Kansas, however, were totally unaware of future advantages therefrom awaiting them. Local affairs only concerned them on the holiday. For William Walker, now free of care, the day was a "glorious 4th Meeker, Jotham, "Journal," entries July 3-6, 1850.
 Walker, William, "Journals," loc. cit., pp. 311, 312, entries for June 28, July 5 and 6, 1850. 114. Langworthy, Franklin, Scenery of the Plains, Mountains and Mines, a diary, 1850-1853, ed. by Paul C. Phillips (Princeton, 1932), p. 65, entry of July 4, 1850.
 115. Steele, John, Across the Plains in 1850, ed. by Joseph Schafer (Caxton Club, Chicago, 1930), pp. 86, 87, entry of July 4, 1850. 116. Smith, C. W., Journal of a Trip to California, in summer, 1850, ed. by R. W. G. Vail (Cadmus Book Shop, New York, 1920), pp. 67, 68, entry of July 4. 117. Elliott, R. S., op. cit., p. 269.











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Notes on Imprints From Highland The Second Point of Printing in Kansas LELA BARNES

TWO decades before the organization of Kansas territory the history of printing within the borders of what is now the state of Kansas had already begun. In February, 1834, the Baptist missionary-printer, Jotham Meeker, set up at the Shawnee Baptist mission a Smith press on which was printed on March 8 of the same year a Shawnee hymn, first item in Kansas imprints.¹

Nine years later a second press was brought to the territory for the use of missionaries at the Iowa, Sac and Fox mission in present Doniphan county. This mission was established by the Presbyterian church in 1835.² Samuel M. Irvin and William Hamilton came to the station as missionaries in 1837, and in 1842³ requested the missionary board to supply a press for printing school books and religious works in the Iowa language. The board acceded to the request and a press was received at the mission in April, 1843.

The first printing by Irvin and Hamilton was An Elementary Book of the Ioway Language.⁴ This book, as well as Original Hymns in the Ioway Language,⁵ bears the date 1843, and it has been quite reasonably assumed that both works appeared in that year.⁶ But a recent examination of the diary of Samuel M. Irvin⁷ establishes the fact that the Elementary Book was not completed until February, 1844; and that the Original Hymns was still in press at that time. That the latter work and a "Prayer book" appeared before September 30, 1844, may be concluded from the report of that

2. History of American Missions (Worcester, 1840), p. 724.

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See Douglas C. McMurtrie, "Pioneer Printing of Kansas," The Kansas Historical Quarterly, v. 1, p. 4 et seq.; Kirke Mechem, "The Mystery of the Meeker Press," ibid., v. IV, pp. 61-73.

^{3.} Reports of the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A., May, 1843, p. 6.

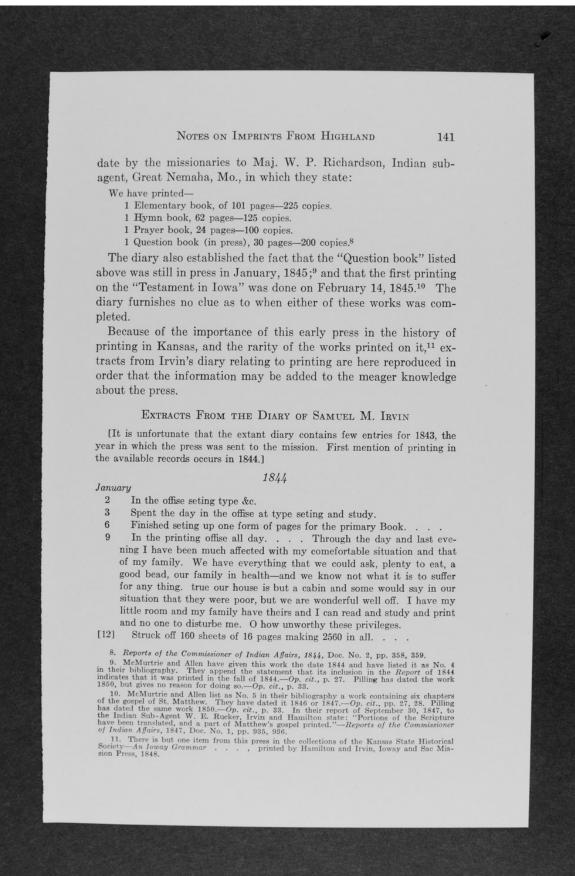
^{4.} English title: An/Elementary Book/of the/Ioway Language,/with an/English Translation./ By/Wm. Hamilton,/and/S. M. Irvin./ Under the direction of the B. F. Miss. of the/Presbyterian Church./ J. B. Roy, Interpreter./ Ioway and Sac Mission Press,/ Indian Territory./1843.—James Constantine Pilling, Bibliography of the Siouan Languages (Washington, 1887), p. 32.

Ibid., pp. 32, 33. English title: Original / Hymns, / in the / Ioway Language. / By / the Missionaries, / to the Ioway & Sac Indians, / Under the direction of the / Board of Foreign Missions of the / Presbyterian Church. / [Two lines quotation.] / Iowa and Sac Mission Press,/ Indian Territory, / 1843.

See statement by McMurtrie and Allen in their A Forgotten Pioneer Press of Kansas (Chicago, 1930), p. 16.

^{7.} The manuscript diary of Samuel M. Irvin for portions of the period 1841-1849 is in the possession of the Kansas State Historical Society.







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13 Spent most of the day in the offise distributing type 14 In the offise all day and verry tired standing up so much. 15 In the offise untill sent for by the agent. 16 In the offise untill sent for by the agent. 17 In the offise untill sent for by the agent. 18 In the offise untill sent for by the agent. 19 In the evening and through the day I was much affected with my situation. I could not wish it more comefortable and easy. I have nothing to do I mean manual work, but much of study and printing. May I improve all to the honour of him who giveth. 20 Most of the day in the offise. 21 Engaged in setting type most of the day except what time I was necessarily diverted from labour by the Indians. 22 Verry busy in the offise and in the evening struck one side of a sheet. 23 Engaged in the offise all day and late in the evening finished striking off a sheet of the primary Book. 24 Verry busy in the offise all day and late in the evening finished striking off a sheet of the primary Book. 25 Verry busy in the offise all day and late in the evening finished striking off a sheet of the primary Book. 26 Continued to set type most of the day. 27 February 28 There has been such a constant monotony in this week of work at the press and study without any things worth[y] of note that I have not wrote down anything here. On Wedenshay we reed some Goods and Books from New York which was a welcome receipt. 10 My time has been mostly engaged in the offise and I have this evening got off another sheet of the Elementary Book. 29 With much pleasure was able to finish printing the last sheet of our primary Book today. It is swelled to 101 pages. We commenced last June. We hope that it will be very useful to the school and we hope with the blessing of God, an aid in communicating useful instruction to the poor Indians. 20 Still engaged in printing. on Saturday I struck off the last sheet of our primary book and was not a little rejoiced at the end of the Book. 21 On Monday folded my she



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Letters of John and Sarah Everett, 1854-1864 Miami County Pioneers

(Continued)

Osawatomie July 10, 1856.

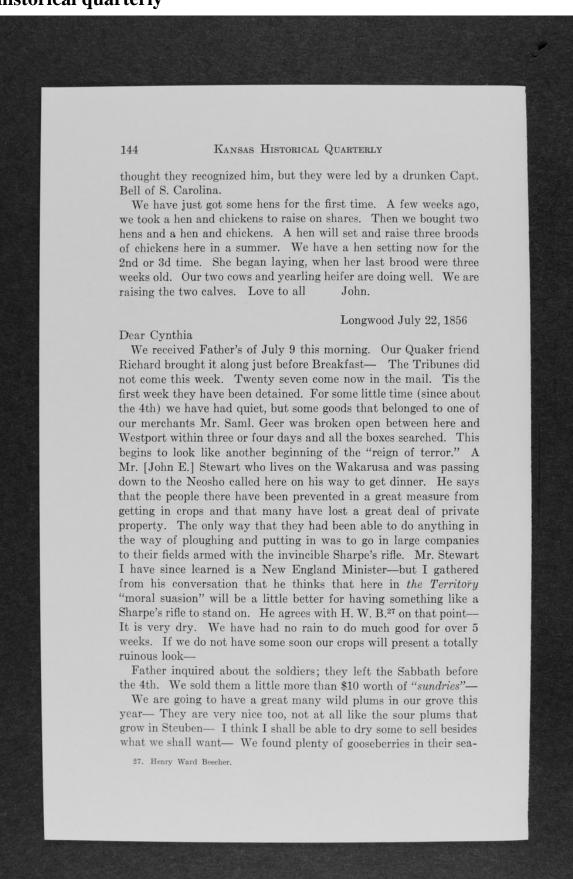
EAR FATHER We received yours of the 20th & 25th ult. this week. We continue well and safe. The Legislative Assembly who met at Topeka on the 4th, the true Representatives of four fifths of the actual settlers of Kansas, were dispersed at the point of the sabre by U. S. troops. This is "Squatter Sovereignty" in Kansas. The wild borders of Missouri, hangers on and lick spittles of Missouri slaveholders, vote for and elect those who rule us, while the People's Representatives are hunted down as traitors. We are all traitors to slavery, but if we were not loyal to the Union, most loyal, such an insult and indignity as above recorded, would never have been written. The patience of those parts of the territory who have suffered most is wearing very thin. Our returned representatives said it was hard to keep some of the free state men from firing into the U.S. troops. There were some six or seven hundred free state men there well armed. Is there a North? Why will she not unite for our deliverance? I am glad to see the firmness of tone manifested in Congress. The plain story about Kansas is this:— There is not a proslavery man of my acquaintance in Kansas who does not acknowledge that the Bogus Legislature was the result of a gigantic and well planned fraud, that the elections were carried by an invading mob from Missouri. The free state Legislature was the result of the unbiased and free vote of the people. The question is, shall we be ruled by a foreign mob or by the resident people expressing their will in a peaceable election.

We hear that the Southerners are in camp three or four miles East of Osawatomie on the Osage, and that they talk of making a town there, "New Georgia." If they do, we shall have to look to our locks and our hen roosts, for the proslavery men about Westport got disgusted with them—they were so thievish. You ask if Whitfield²⁶ led the mob who robbed Osawatomie. Some who had seen him

26. John W. Whitfield was commander in chief of the Missouri forces.

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LETTERS OF JOHN AND SARAH EVERETT

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son so you see this summer we are likely to fare rather better in some respects than we did last— We make butter enough to pay all our store bills at present- We have a few eggs now. We have two hens of our own that lay and two of friend Richard's here that have begun to lay today. We have 5 of his here which we took to see if we could get them to laying. They have sixty or more chickens and so little to feed them all that the hens stopped laying 2 months ago so a few days ago we borrowed five hens and two of them commenced laying today— We bought 1/2 bushel of corn to feed them and are going to pay for it in eggs- 15c a doz for eggs and 20c for the corn- So much of chicken news- I must send you a piece of Frank's new trousers and apron-the "yaller" piece is like the apron -How do you suppose his little white head looks growing up through such a suit as this makes- I have cut his hair today for the first time and must send you a bunch. It reached clear down to his shoulders— We have meetings now in our neighborhood—could have them here if we chose but think it a little nearer the centre of the district at friend Mendenhall's and so they are held in his dooryard shaded by the forest trees.

There are six preachers located on claims within 2 miles of us or rather their claims are located within that distance. Two of them have not yet moved on to their claims-

> Good bye for the present Sat 28

> > July 24.

It continues very dry. We long for rain. The Cenhadwr for July came to hand this week. Also Phrenological & Water Cure Journals. . . . The reconsideration and passage of the Kansas Free State Bill in the House revived our drooping hopes. The moral effect of such a vote is very great. If Douglas's bill 29 should become a law, another just such an invasion would take place as have taken place, although perhaps more cunningly contrived. We should have thousands of Missourians among us on sham claims, who would stay just long enough to call it a residence; put up a log or a rail pen for a shanty, split out a few oak boards to sleep under, and then pass the time in fishing hunting and lounging about. Many families here

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^{28.} Family name for Sarah M. C. Everett.

^{29.} The Toombs bill, reported by Sen. Stephen A. Douglas from the committee on territories on July 2, provided for a census of all white males over 21 years of age, bona fide residents of the territory. Those counted were to be permitted to vote on November 1 for delegates to a constitutional convention. The bill offered precautions against election irregularities. It passed the senate but failed in the house.





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live almost entirely out of doors from choice in the Summer particularly Missourians. Some houses have a projecting roof in front, with three or four shelves for dishes &c, and there the women spend most of the summer days. Others have rails laid up just like a rail fence roofed slightly, and live in that day times. We hardly ever get any rain oftener than once a week except for a few weeks in the rainy season. So it would not be much expense to set up a habitation for the summer.

Our health continues good.

Love to all

John

Longwood, Aug 1, 1856

Dear Cynthia

Father's last, announcing Jane's arrival was received this week. But the only thing that I could fix my mind on was the Fremont enthusiasm. In his election is our only rescue!

If that proves a failure we are in common with the free North "Subdued!" We can no longer speak of our glorious Republic! Liberty and Democracy will be utterly overthrown to be raised again only by strife and bloodshed! It is a shame that a government commenced as was ours, should now be overthrown by a spirit darker and more malignant than that which provoked its origin. We are looking forward to the Nov. election with trembling anxiety.

Can it be possible that any one born and reared in the free north blessed with all its privileges, can in their hearts desire that this country should be tilled by slaves? If they have not hearts to feel for the oppressed, can they yet really desire the introduction of an Institution here that shall hinder the development of the country's wealth, and render the soil in a few short years worthless and worn out?

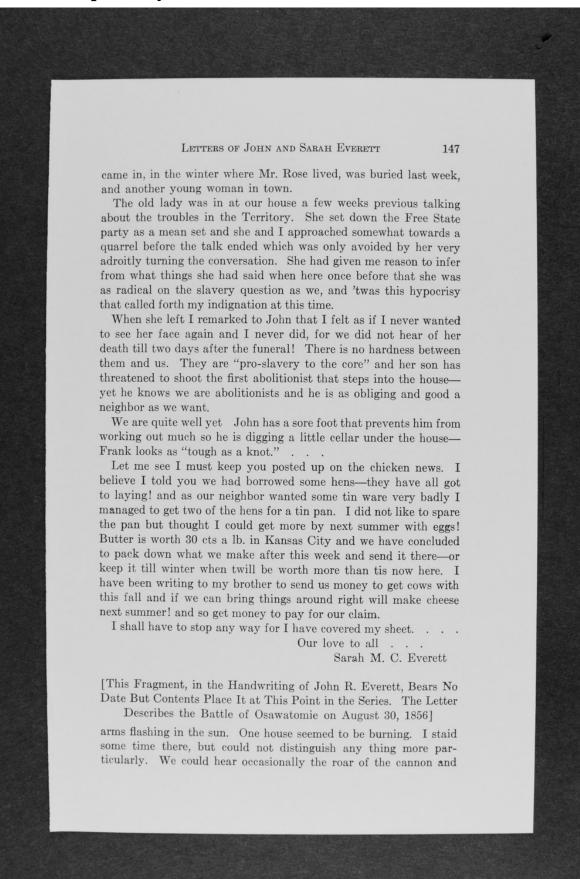
We do not hear of any more difficulty in the Territory as yet. Have learned from our Eastern papers that Col. P. Smith is now in command of the U. S. troops in the Ter.³⁰ It matters not who has that post so long as Frank Pierce is Commander in Chief. I should not lose 10 sec. of sleep if I should hear any night at bed time that that man or demon or whatever he be had been assassinated!

The weather here continues very dry and hot! Newcomers are mostly getting down sick. An old lady one of our neighbors who

30. Gen. Persifer F. Smith succeeded Col. E. V. Sumner as head of the territorial forces.

General Smith's sentiments were Proslavery, but he did not take an active part in territorial affairs.



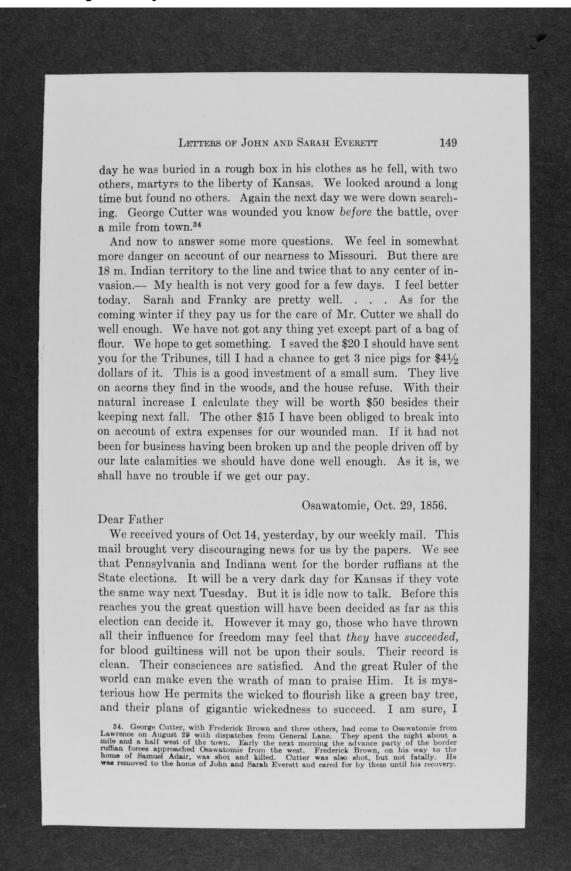




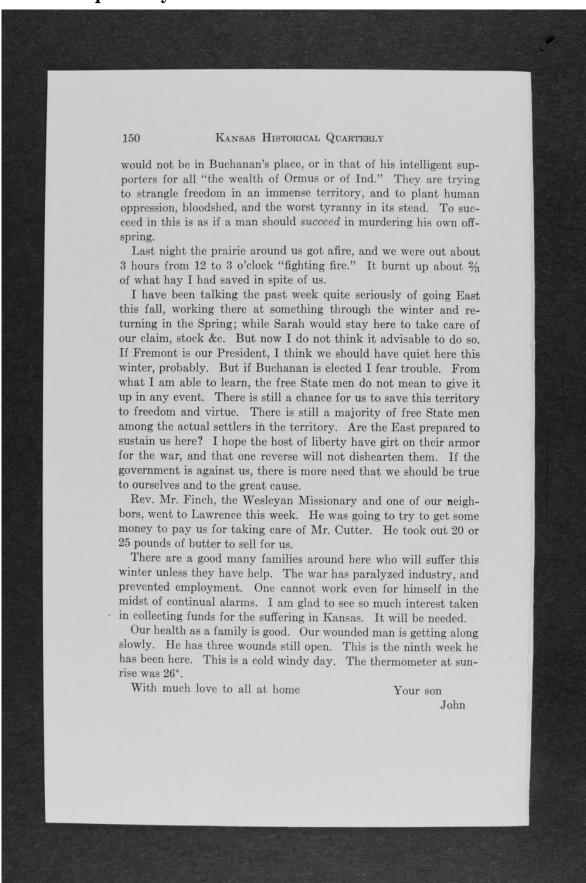
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KANSAS HISTORICAL QUARTERLY 148 the shouting of the Missourians. I came down and as I came home could see smoke after smoke go up from the devoted town. They had finished plundering and had gone to burning in earnest. I found more fugitives from town at the house, a son of O. C. Brown³¹ (not Capt. John Brown, but a very different man) and a son of Rev. Mr. Adair, the Congregational preacher.32 The latter was a cousin of Frederick Brown, Capt. John Brown's son, who was shot before any alarm was given by a scout of the enemy, a proslavery Baptist preacher named Martin White. This was the first sad note of warn-Young Adair was sent immediately to alarm the free State men under Capt. J. Brown named above. His son shot dastardly, unsuspectingly was the word to rouse the brave Captain. Adair was cut off from returning by the advance of the enemy. He made his way below the town and over to us. He is a brave boy about 14. In the mean time friend Mendenhall had returned to his watch on the hill, and stayed there till he saw the Missouri crowd take up the line of march and leave. He immediately, with another neighbor Rev. James Caruth³³ started to town to render assistance to survivors &c. They came past our house and I went with them. We were almost the first in town after the burning. The first house we came to was a farm house, Mr. Chestnut's, a zealous free State man with a large family. This house was in the town limits, but not in the village strictly. They had moved their goods nearly all out. The mob came there but providentially did not burn up their shelter. The next house we came to was smoking but standing. We went in and found the floor had been fired from underneath, but was then only half burnt. We put out the fire with some wet wash clothes standing in a tub and saved that house. Others came in, and we went down to the timber to the field of conflict, to look for wounded or dead. We found one body on the bank of the river shot through the breast. He appeared to have died instantly. No one was killed on the battle field of our party. This man was sick, and could not escape. We got a couple of poles, laid shingle boards across them, and four of us mournfully carried him to an empty house, belonging to a proslavery man and so marked with a white flag and saved. The next 31. Two sons of Orville C. Brown were in Osawatomie at this time, Rockwell and Spencer Kellogg. The latter, then a boy of 14, describes his participation in the battle in his journal. (See George Gardner Smith, Spencer Kellogg Brown, D. Appleton & Co., 1903.) He was taken to Missouri as a prisoner for a short time following the battle. In 1861 he enlisted in the Union army under General Lyon and held the rank of fourth commander on the gunboat Essez. He was captured as a prisoner of war while destroying a rebel ferry boat near Port Hudson in August, 1862, and after a year's imprisonment at Richmond, was executed on the charge of being a suy. 32. The Rev. Samuel L. Adair, whose wife was a half sister of John Brown. 33. James Harrison Carruth, Presbyterian minister, later professor of natural sciences at Baker University, Baldwin, and state botanist, 1868-1892.











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Osawatomie Nov. 13, 1856.

Dear Father

We received yours of Oct 29, this week Tuesday, with the gold dollar for Frank. The little boy is very proud of his present, and thanks J. W. Roberts very much. Tell Mr. Roberts that Sarah does not despair of making a buffalo cheese yet. I have seen a number of cows that are part buffalo. The hunters take out a cow with a young calf, they find a calf whose mother has been killed. They kill the cow's calf, and the cow takes to the buffalo calf. So tell Mr. Roberts to look out for a buffalo cheese some time or other. These half or part buffalo cows are generally esteemed better for the cross. I saw a man who said he once had a three quarters buffalo cow, the best cow he ever had.

Those currant slips came by this mail—11 white and red. I have put them in the ground, and I hope they will live though they are somewhat dried. I am very much obliged to whoever took the trouble to do them up.

You ask about religious meetings. We have had none this side of the Pottawatomie since the burning and scattering here. At first people dare not leave their families and homes—all was apprehension. Every day or two brought some fresh rumor of impending invasion. Now there is a feeling of measured security again—for how long the future alone can reveal. This added to sickness in some families broke up our meetings. . . .

I am working for a neighbor this week, helping him gather his corn. I am tired this evening, and will close with much love.

Your son

John

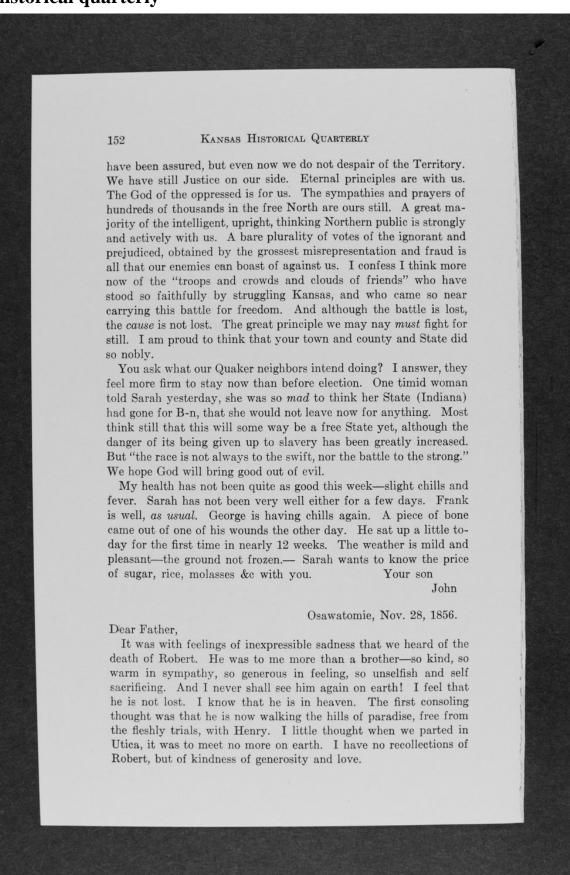
P.S. Osawatomie was not burnt a second time as reported. The steam saw mill was not burnt at all. It is sawing boards again now. And alas for the steam grist mill I see reported burnt. There is none here. (Vide O. C. Brown's letter in the Utica Morn. Herald of Oct. 30. That man cant tell a straight story.)

Osawatomie, Nov. 20, 1856.

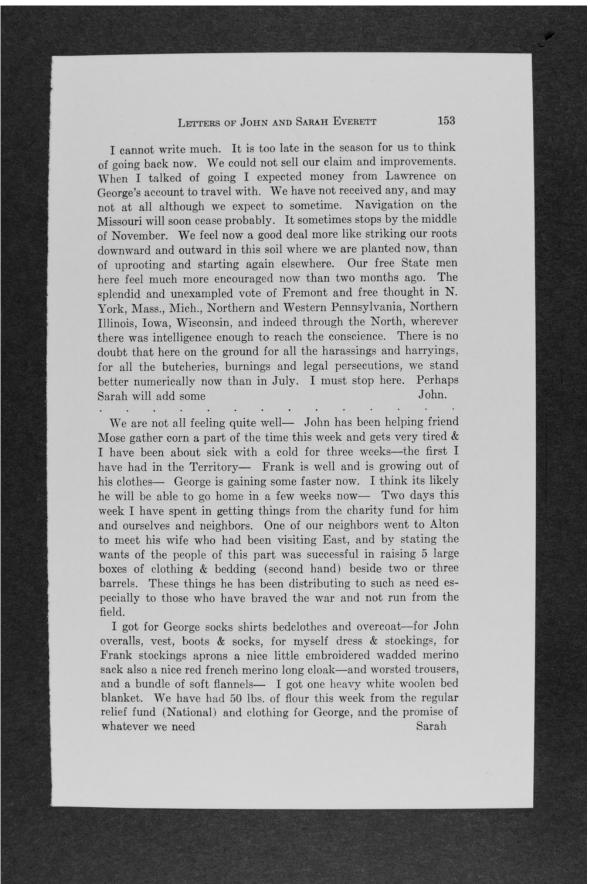
Dear Father.

Yours of Nov 6 was rec'd this week. The election of Buchanan was what I had been expecting for the last three weeks, and especially for the last week. It has not depressed the feelings of free State men here as I thought it would. We are still determined to struggle for a free State. If Fremont had been elected that would











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KANSAS HISTORICAL QUARTERLY 154 Osawatomie Dec 4 1856. Dear Father. Gov. Geary is getting more in favor with free State men. He is a vast improvement on Shannon. His removal of Donaldson³⁵ and rebuke of the infamous Judge Lecompte³⁶ is well received as an omen of better times. The troops have been withdrawn from the Southern part of the Territory. They made seven arrests while here of men who had been in the free State army last summer. They had warrants out for a good many more, but the persecuted generally got warning and kept out of the way. Now the troops are gone there is no more danger for them. I was last summer among those who thought "prudence the better part of valor," and not having a gun, neither knowing how to use one was not in the fighting army of freedom. (I must say I am rather ashamed to confess it for there never was a more righteous cause than ours, but so it was. I will say in palliation that our place is out of the way, not exposed to all the evidences of strife, and I was not disposed to go counter to your opinions on war, if I could avoid it.) There is no danger of our being exposed to legal prosecutions that I am aware of, and for Missouri armies such as we saw last summer, as long as Geary is Governor they will be kept out. The merchants of Kansas City are very tired of the past state of things; and will do what they can undoubtedly for quiet. They were getting a great trade from the Territory but war of course cut it off. A great many of the turbulent Southerners have gone home. As to the reports you speak of respecting disturbances near Osawatomie we have not heard of any thing particular. A messenger or other officer of the Congressional Committee of inquiry, Mr. Arthur, had his house burned and stock driven off some four or five weeks ago. Mr. Arthur's claim is on Sugar Creek, 25 miles south from here. The letter writers sometimes make "Osawatomie" include a district 30 miles West and from ten to twenty five miles South. I feel almost as much encouraged to look for the ultimate success of freedom in this territory when I consider the splendid success of the Fremont ticket wherever there was a thorough and straightforward canvass and an intelli-35. It was erroneously reported in the summer of 1856 that Governor Geary had asked for the removal of U. S. Marshal Israel B. Donaldson. Reference is possibly to this, or possibly to the arrest of Capt. John Donaldson of the territorial militia on order of Governor Geary issued November 7, 1856. Captain Donaldson had removed a prisoner from and dismissed the court of R. R. Nelson, a justice of the peace at Lecompton. Donaldson was later reinstated. 36. On September 23, 1856, Governor Geary addressed circulars to Chief Justice Samuel Lecompte and to Assoc. Justices Sterling G. Cato and Jeremiah M. Burrell, asking for complete reports on their activities in office.





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gent vote, as if Fremont had been elected by a meager vote. The heart of the North is aroused. The thinking farmers and intelligent mechanics are with us. The vast majority of the conservators of religion are with us. I hope we shall see a large emigration here in the spring—men moving West who will come here as peaceful settlers, ready to stand in the gap for freedom. It is said that the larger part of the emigration, what there is, even now is from free States. The Yankee race are said proverbially to be remarkably tenacious of their purposes; they are not going to give up the territory.

Our health is pretty good now. George is improving some, but is having a chill to day. There is some prospect that we shall have a speedy remittance from Lawrence on his account. . . The free state people are very much enheartened and helped by the liberal donations of their friends in the East. It will save a great deal of suffering, besides coming in a time when we specially felt the need of evidences of sympathy and help from our brothers at home.

We were unavoidably hindered from getting our last letter in the mail in season, so you will perhaps get two together.

With much love John.

[December 4, 1856]

I am glad that you can so readily supply us with rennet.³⁷ I have bothered myself beyond all telling trying to make it hold out, now I shall give myself the satisfaction of using just enough after this and hold you responsible for the consequences.

. . . [John] and Mr. Snow finished . . . a very large stack of hay to day. 12 tons they calculate!

You asked in your letter if we did not sometimes long to see such things as hills stones and so forth. At the south (¾ of a mile from us) we are blessed with the view of a magnificent bluff, "Crescent Hill," that circles around to the eastward forming a fine curve the slope of which is mostly wooded, on the west and east the bluffs step down into rich wavy rolls and to the North we descend very gently to the creek. Stones! I will show you some when you "settle in Kansas" that ten yoke of oxen can hardly stir!

John says send on that money and he will promise to take good

^{37.} Rennet is the prepared inner surface of the stomach of a young calf, used for curdling milk. The outer skin and superfluous fat are removed from the stomach while fresh and it is then placed in salt for a few hours and dried. Small pieces are soaked in water and the water added to milk, producing curds which form the basis of cheese. Sarah Everett explains in a later letter that it was difficult to secure rennet in the territory because few calves were killed.



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care of the cow. \$14 will get only a heifer. I am not in much of a writing mood as you must have already discovered, so perhaps I had better stop. . . . Are white linen cuffs and collars fashionable? . . . [Sarah M. C. Everett]

Osawatomie Dec. 11, 1856.

Dear Father

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Yours of Nov. 27 we received this week. We thank you and our kind friends in Steuben and Pennymynydd very much for your offer of help in case we wished to return. We may be glad before very long, to avail ourselves of any help we can get. But no present danger threatens us. I was talking with the mail contractor the other day. He had just returned from Westport. I asked him how they seemed to feel there? He said they were very clever now. Those who were encouraging the border ruffians last summer now spoke of their doings as something awful. "Well," I said, "I suppose they feel very confident this will be a slave state now Buchanan is elected?" "No," he said, "they talk as if they thought it would be a free state." Capt. [Henry T.] Titus, a notorious and very prominent leader of the Southern bandits, was at Kansas City, with 50 other Southerners, bound for Gen. Walker's army in Nicaraugua. This Titus is reported to have said in passing through Lawrence, that he had spent his money and time to make Kansas a slave state, but he could not do it, nor any other man under God's heavens. There is more confidence here now than at any time since the burning of Osawatomie although we do not any of us know what a day or a week may bring forth. Another store is starting here this week-i.e. one that was burnt out starting anew. They have put a small pair of stones into their steam mill here so that they grind corn now. Some of Mr. Cutter's friends from near Palmyra were here a short time ago and said they were very busy making improvements there in their neighborhood. If we could have sufficient emigration from the North next spring, this will be a free state yet. The next claim West of us was taken this week by a Wesleyan minister. He sold his previous claim, a very good one before the election for the value of the improvements, to take effect in case Buchanan was elected, thinking there would then be no use for us to try to do anything. But his confidence has returned, he has hired a man to work on his new claim all winter I believe, and he is going on to make large improvements.





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There seems still to be a great deal of injustice practiced in the territory, but not so openly and with such a high hand as when Shannon was Governor.

We have had some pretty cold weather the last week-one morning the mercury stood at 2° above zero. There is no snow and the ground does not seem to be frozen permanently yet.

Our health is pretty good. Geo. Cutter is improving quite slowly, he is kept back by frequent chills. We are looking for a remittance from Lawrence on his account this week.

If you feel that we are not acting wisely or doing quite right in staying here, when the prospect of our making a permanent home is so uncertain, remember that the free state folks feel not only that there is an opportunity for bettering their condition if things turn favorably, but they feel that they are standing in the breach for freedom, and to leave while there is hope is to desert their colors and give strength to the enemy.

John Everett Your affectionate son

Osawatomie, Dec. 19, '56.

Dear Father,

Wednesday was a "white day" for us in Kansas Territory. In the first place Rev. Geo. Lewis and J. H. Thomas of Lawrence called to see us. Mr Thomas was formerly of Brooklyn; you know him as Mr. Thomas the tobacco man. They came this way to look at the country. We had an exceedingly pleasant and encouraging interview with them. Mr Thomas has been in the state (Missouri) lately. He says they seem discouraged about making this a slave state. He said it was perfectly safe to travel there, and to express your sentiments. On the other hand the free state men about Lawrence and indeed through the territory are full of hope, and sanguine of final success. Mr. Roberts, an intelligent neighbor (a Welshman) has been in the state and he got the same impression. He says it has cost the people of Western Missouri one million dollars for their villainous raids on Kansas. They now feel that they have been foiled. They calculated to drive us all out as they did the Leavenworth people, but found us too hard to drive.

But the event of the day was the call of Mr. Thaddeus Hyatt of New York, President of the National Kansas Committee. He is now in the territory for the purpose of visiting every neighborhood to see that justice is done to the sufferers— His visits are of a "flying" character but he transacts business with dispatch— We had



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158 KANSAS HISTORICAL QUARTERLY never received any thing yet from the Lawrence committee on George's account but before he had been in the house 10 minutes he had settled the matter by having us make out our bill for the whole time (16 weeks) and himself writing on it an order for its immediate payment— He then made a little inquiry about the treatment George was having and recommended us to use water, and handed out \$20 to get better tubs and other appliances for that purpose-He gave George \$10 for an old wallet that contained 75 cts that was in his pocket when he was shot and which caught one of the bullets that was aimed at him and which saved his hip joint from being fractured and undoubtedly saved his life— He was very indignant that the Lawrence Committee had not paid Mr. Cutter's bill before this time.— John is going to town this morning to get a bath tub made and engage lumber to ceil the house so that it will be warm enough for a bath room &c &c. . . . Since we wrote before we have received from the fund 50 lbs flour 7 lbs sugar 6 lbs rice 2 lbs coffee ½ lb tea and an old pelisse which I find very comfortable to slip on in this old room or to wear when I go out on horseback to do errands— We do not expect to get any thing more from the fund if they pay us .- John commenced but the morning was wearing away and he had wood to chop and thought he would hardly have time and so I was obliged though reluctantly to spoil his letter. Therefore with many regrets I am. Sarah O-e, Dec. 26, 1856. Dear Father Two gentlemen who were in Osawatomie this week, came in through Missouri. They reported the border ruffians they met or heard of as universally discouraged. One man who was in the army that burned Osawatomie said they were promised before they started \$1.50 a day, and 160 acres of land. "Well, did you get your \$1.50 a day?" "No, by —— we did not." "Did you get your 160 acres of land?" "No, by —— we didn't." "Are you going there again?" "No! Kansas may go to hell!" (That is true border ruffian dialect.) We are very thankful to you and the generous donor for the \$5 enclosed in your last. We hope now that another year we may be left in peace so may earn our own living, and soon return to other needy the help we need and are kindly furnished. This help the North is now sending, in my judgment, assures the freedom of Kansas.



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LETTERS OF JOHN AND SARAH EVERETT

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We received \$60 this week from Lawrence, (from Mr Arny³⁸) on George Cutter's account. Our health is usually good as a family.

. . Yesterday we had company to a Christmas dinner—a Methodist (Wes.) preacher, wife and child. A pleasant visit. I wish Mother could make a visit to Kansas for a resting spell. We have had a cold December. The two last days were very mild. Today foggy. This week got Dec. Cen. They get them in Lawrence about the 10th or 12th.

With much love John.

Osawatomie Jan 1, 1857.

Dear Father.

Do any of the Welsh people talk of coming to Kansas in the spring? Any one who could come out with means enough to go right to making cheese with 20 to 40 cows could almost make their fortune in one season. Cheese retails here at 25 cents a pound. Last winter the same. I wish I had means to go into it. The pasture is unlimited and most excellent. Milch cows and all stock get as fat as butter in the summer. Good cows were worth here last spring from \$25 to \$35.

Corn is worth here 40 to 50 ets, Flour brings \$4.50, Butter, 25 ets; turnips 25 ets; potatoes, none to sell; pork 5 ets a pound.

Our health is good. We expect to take Mr. Cutter to Lawrence as soon as we get a few days of mild weather. He gets along slowly since cold weather.

John P. S.

Look out for mail failures now! The season of snow drifts, and swollen creeks approaches. There is three or four inches of snow on the ground to day which fell yesterday morning. Every week in December brought first rain, then wind, south, west, and north, cold, cutting, frosty, then a clear sky, one or two beautiful spring like days, the last day wind East, then clouds, then rain would complete the circle and begin a new round.

Osawatomie, Jan 15, '57.

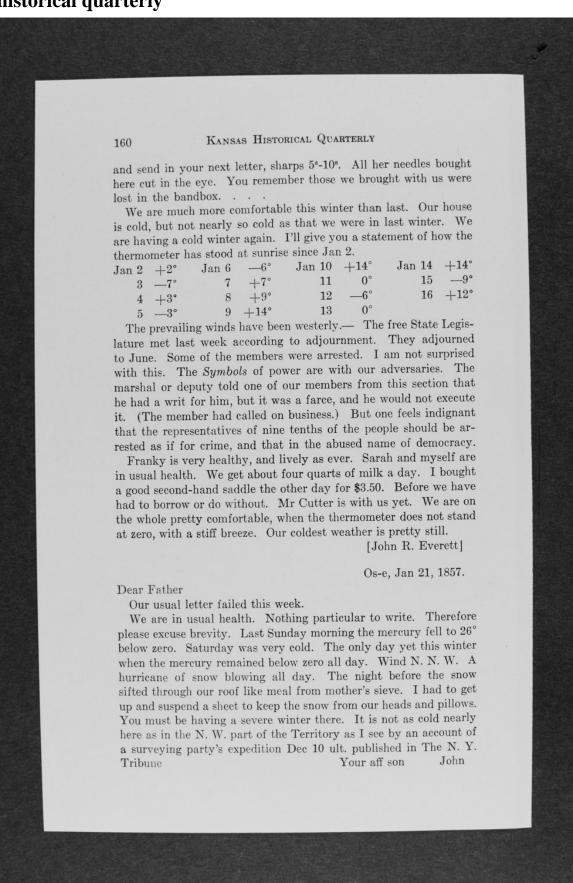
Dear Father,

Evening

We received yours of Jan 1st this week. (Excuse my pencil marks. My ink is frozen & pale.) The \$7 came safely. Franky and Sarah are very much obliged to the children and mother for the donation. Will you please get Sarah a paper of good needles

38. William F. M. Arny was a representative of the National Kansas Committee organized July 9, 1856, to send aid to the settlers of the territory.







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LETTERS OF JOHN AND SARAH EVERETT

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Osawatomie, Jan. 28, 1857.

Dear Father

We rec'd yours of Jan. 9th yesterday, with \$6.00 enclosed. Thank Wm Roberts and J. W. Roberts and yourself very kindly for us. We hope we will be able some time to return it to some one who needs it as much. The prospect before us this summer is brighter than it has been yet in Kansas. Our health is better. The look for peace and confidence is yet good. The prospects of an overwhelming preponderance of free state settlers here are not at all desperate but highly encouraging. I hear on all sides noise of anticipated improvements the coming season. There is to be a saw mill and store put up 3 or 4 miles west of Osawatomie, the nucleus of a prospective town there—about the same distance from us as the present village. Our claim is in the centre of the township. Who knows but we may have a four corners, a store, blacksmith shop, &c here some time? There is considerable talk of building in Osawatomie. They have recently been getting subscriptions to erect a small building for school and meeting purposes—nearly enough already subscribed. My neighbor Mr Finch and I intend to fence together 20 acres each, making a field of 40 acres for corn. There is little fencing timber on my claim. Most of the rails I will have to buy. We intend to purchase a prairie plow between us and do the plowing mostly ourselves. Now do you think you could lend or borrow for me \$50 or \$30 to get fencing with? I can fence the half of a square piece 1/4 mile on a side with the same rails it would take to fence 10 acres separately. The surveyed lines come so that it will be much more convenient to make a field so, than to enlarge my old field. Mr Finch, you have heard me mention before, is a Wesleyan missionary of the Am. Miss. Association. If I can do this fencing and make my mare and my labor pay for my part of the plowing of the field, it will be a great lift for us and with a fair season bring us in enough so that next fall we will be quite independent. Next spring I intend to put out a few fruit trees to begin to make an orchard. I will have to buy some potatoes for seed. Those currant slips Lewis sent me I hope will grow next summer. They have been in the ground all winter. I wish some one was coming out here from your part in the spring, so that I could get a variety of small fruits &c. . . . How many of my apple trees lived through the summer? If you have not earthed them up, the first thaw let any one who has time tramp the snow around them. This will shut out the mice from

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