

Daniel Read Anthony, Sr. to father

Letter from Daniel Read Anthony, Sr. to his father discussing how the Kansas sovereignty principle benefits those (like himself) in real estate that buy inexpensive land, then sell it to new western settlers at an elevated price for profit. The letter also discusses how Kansas' free state status might impact property value. The letter also mentions the proceedings of a local murder trial and Judge Samuel Dexter Lecompte.

Creator: Anthony, D. R. (Daniel Read), 1824-1904

Date: June 10, 1857

Callnumber: Daniel Read Anthony, Sr. Papers Coll. # 259 Box 1 Folder Correspondence 1857

KSHS Identifier: DaRT ID: 224621

Item Identifier: 224621

www.kansasmemory.org/item/224621

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Daniel Read Anthony, Sr. to father

Severnworth No 1

1857

Severnworth City K.S. June 10.

Dear Father

Here I am in the land of Border
Ruffians, arrived here Monday morning
from 9th at 10 O'clock safe & sound stop
at the Planters House, a good 5 story brick
building. Sleep 4 to 8 in a room - board
\$2.00 per day at that - Am going out
to Squat with A.C. Wilder & Scott I
Anthony an old resident of this city.

Am going for the Sovereignty principle.
Am well satisfied Severnworth city
is the most enterprising city in all
Kansas - but lots are high, high, high,
wouldnt touch them at half what
is asked for them - Lots as far from
the center of business as Adams Street &
Chatham Street in Rochester they have
ask \$30. per foot front 140 feet deep -
Every body is a land agent - and most
every body owns land - I wont
touch any thing but lands at first
prices or nearly so - This town is
very much like St Paul Minnesota I
think from 3,000 to 5,000 people -
Mostly young men - and few
men - they call me an old "foggy"

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already - Scott J. Anthony is a first rate
man O.K. and said to be perfectly
reliable in all respects - Wilder has
been making some money since
he has been here - If I had invested
\$1000 here six months ago it would
have been worth \$10,000 now - but that
time is past - I think ^{it} property will
~~decline~~ this winter and in the
spring before the emigration com-
mences. I think a good speculation
can be made - money is worth
from 3 to 5 percent a month - but
it can be used to much better profit
buying lands - at least so I think -

If Aaron wants to invest that
\$400. in the Union Savings Bank let
him send on the Gold at once - so
that it will reach here by the 10th of
July - the sales are on the 15th July -

Sell that \$400. & the \$600. mortgage if
you possibly can - I think the money
could be doubled in less than one year.

I shall not do any thing at leaving
money - but if I had it would buy
draft on New York, and could
make enough to more than pay express
charges - The charge for expressing currency
to Leavenworth city is \$3.50 per \$1,000 and

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left when you contract - Gold costs more -
 Gold is worth more than currency -
 I have seen Gen. Harney at Fort
 Leavenworth - Saw "Sheriff Sewell Jones"
 the man who was shot - he is very docile
 now - indeed many of the Border
 Ruffians now say Kansas must
 be a Free State - When it was announced
 that Adams "Free State" was elected
 Mayor of this city they said property rose
 25 per cent - Judge Leecompte is holding
 court here - Charles Fugitt is on trial for
 the murder of Hopps - They have been on
~~trial~~ at work two days and got only six jurors
 over 60 had formed an opinion and
 many were challenged by Fugitt's counsel
 They ^{the counsel} accept none but "B. R." full blooded -
 Leecompte, Marshall & District Atty have
 thus far acted fairly in this trial -
 But Leecompte is a thick headed ~~weak~~ ass
 and acts as though he was afraid of his
 own shadow - he is a coward - almost
 yes every man says Fugitt murdered and
 then scalped Hopps in cold blood - one
 young man said to me that he would be
 elected as he had only killed a damned
 abolitionist - The Free State men speak
 right out plain, they will not vote
 at this election - Scott J. Anthony was

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Driven out of town last summer for his
 just state principle. and this spring the
 Deputy Marshall gave his Revolver to
 Scott and wanted him to assist
 in arresting Ingett - Scott laid hold
 of him first - this shows a change
 I shall go and see Merritt next
 Monday and stay there two weeks
 and attend the "Wet Land Sales"
 Scott has gone this day - Wilder goes
 with me Monday - I'll manage
 to send her money also - and I will
 buy her 160 acres - which will cost about
 \$300 to \$325. these lands are priced at
 150 to 250 per acre - Inman is going
 to be a good business here - many good
 buildings are already built & being built.
 I shall want to get the note
 discounted for 2000 or 3000 -
 \$1000 - 2 or \$10,000 even is small
 to operate in city lots - The Planters House was
 sold for \$50,000 a few weeks ago - They are
 making money fast - I don't think trade
 is ^{very} good - If you can get the agency of
 the Cetera for Lawrence you might move out -
 I write this on my knee in the Hotel office
 we now have a daily mail from & to
 this city - Yours &c D. R. Anthony