

## Thomas J. Marsh to George L. Stearns

The following is a letter dated September 28, 1857, from Thomas J. Marsh to George L. Stearns that attempts to convince Stearns that the territorial judges will rule in favor of the Free State party. Marsh also mentioned the territorial elections and the voter fraud in which Missourians would most likely engage. Marsh also discussed encroachment on the Delaware Indian reservations by Missourians, who were attempting to stake land claims before the reservation was legally open to settlement.

Creator: Marsh, Thomas J.

Date: September 28, 1857

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KANSAS  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

Thomas J. Marsh to George L. Stearns

Marsh, Thos. J.

Lawrence, K. T.

Sept. 28. 1857.

George L. Stearns Esq.

Dear Sir:

KANSAS STATE  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
35507.

After an absence of a fortnight I am again at my old quarters. I am in receipt of your favors of the 14 & 15 th. inst. before this you will have recd. my letters and the drafts drawn; I shall comply with your instructions as to the future. I see you fear distracted councils, by reason of Conway, Phillips, Redpath and others. In this, I am happy to say, your fears are entirely groundless. Conway does not attempt the slightest opposition, he stands neutral, Phillips will vote, Genl. Lane, Wm Redpath at Doniphan he is about starting a new paper there, "The Crusader of Freedom," I don't believe there will be more than three in Lawrence, and so far as I can learn there are none among the free state party, that are entitled to, who will not vote. I did not see or hear the first man during my trip in the Southern Counties who would not vote. You may rest assured, that the people are united, and earnest, notwithstanding all the



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all the letter writers say. In fact I am getting out of all patience with them. They catch an idea, and amplify it to death. My opinion is, that Pannett will be elected, to Congress, and that the Free State Party will elect a good working majority in both branches in the Territorial Legislature.

This can hardly fail, unless fraud of the most gigantic nature is perpetrated, but even this cannot be done, without our being able to show it, and the pro. Slavery men know it.

There are various rumors afloat concerning foul voting &c, but I do not believe the one half of them. I suppose when I have been cheated as much as the men of Kansas have, I may be less sanguine. - There is a rumor, and it may be true, that some 70 Missourians came on to the Delaware Reserve the latter part of last week, and commenced claiming & began laying their cabin foundations. under the pretence, that the Lands was about to be thrown open to settlers - some think really for the purpose of voting. but they will be looked after. I do not think much of it, for twice before, there has been such



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rumors concerning those same lands and men of all parties have been on them for a few days at a time, and then learned that they had been hoaxed. - The returns are to be made by the Judges who will act as the Precincts independent of those appointed by the Territorial authorities, to the Committee at Lawrence as soon as possible after the elections - I think <sup>in</sup> about three days, enough will be known to determine the result, as soon as that can be known I shall start for home, unless there may be letters now on the way, and received giving me other instructions I shall leave doubtless, some time the last of next week, after the receipt of this, (unless previously directed as above mentioned) I suppose you will not communicate further. - I shall make arrangements to have any letters forwarded to me that may be received after I leave. There must of necessity be considerable ~~an~~ amount of money to pay - more than I shall be able, the men have worked well, if they succeed, I hope to be able after my return home to procure something more



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for them, I think under those cir-  
cumstances I could raise them  
Five hundred dollars. Think my  
dear Sir of this Territory saved to  
Freedom. Doctor Webb, and Lady  
are here, he will remain until some-  
thing is known of the result of the election.  
I suppose we shall leave here about the  
same time. Genl. Pomroy and Lady  
are to be here on Wednesday of next week,  
we shall probably all go on in company.  
Mr. Whitman has not yet returned.  
I suppose you have received the Rep-  
ublican I have sent. The last contain-  
ed Gov. Walker's Proclamation to the  
Voters. Messrs Ransom, and Parrott  
are speaking this P.M. at LeCom-  
ton, Parrott speaks here to night.  
That finishes up his appointments.  
The real work is now to be done. I  
think I shall return home by Clew-  
land, and Cincinnati, till then I  
remain—

Your Obedt. Servt.

Thos. J. Marsh.  
Sept 28/57.  
Lawrence, Ks.