

Albert D. Searl to Thaddeus Hyatt

The author wrote from Tabor, Iowa to Thaddeus Hyatt, president of the National Kansas Committee. He began the letter by mentioning a skirmish between pro-slavery and free state forces somewhere between Lawrence and Topeka. This correspondence also deals with emigrant settlements within the territory, the shipment of weapons and provisions, and the morale among the emigrants as they struggled to make ends meet. Furthermore, Searl mentioned a great deal about James Lane and his activities within Kansas Territory.

Creator: Searle, Albert D., 1831-

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Albert D. Searl to Thaddeus Hyatt

2394
Thaddeus Hyatt,
of New York.

Tabor Iowa, Thursday Aug. 21st 1836

Mr. Hyatt,

Dear Sir I arrived here from Chicago on Monday; on Tuesday we received a letter from Kansas, a copy of which I send enclosed. The messenger who brought it was Mr Buchanan of the Wisconsin party; he said there had been a skirmish between the Emigrants and Missourians on the Kansas River, between Lawrence & Topeka, that Lane was in it, and that they took some 80 guns one Cannon and a quantity of am^munition and whipped the Missourians badly; Lane had been at Lawrence & Topeka, and came to Buchanan's house and started him off for this place with the letter, B lives in the first settlement across the

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Kansas line, which is some 10 miles in the Territory; The Emigrants made another settlement between the first & Topeka; I could not get the particulars of the battle from the messenger, he did not see Lane more than half an hour before he started; Lane was to wait at his house till he returned and then he was going back to the Kansas Valley; I raised teams to take on what stuff there was here, which consisted of 100 guns one Bbl. powder & 100 Knives; I went with them to Nebraska City and there got other teams to take them on and a safe number of men to accompany them; I put them in charge of Mr. Moore and he will see them through; I returned to this place this morning; The Camp below Nebraska City did not break up until

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about a week after we started for the East; a day or two after they broke up a party from Lawrence & Topeka arrived and persuaded Lane to go with them to Kansas, promising they would see him through independent of the emigrant train. Lane had decided to go east but finally consented to accompany them Dr Blanchard (from whom I got this statement) disguised him in such a way that his most intimate acquaintances could not recognize him, he goes by the name of Spanish Joe in the Territory; Blanchard accompanied him one day. Buchanan said but few of the emigrants knew Lane was in the Territory.

The messenger which Lane sent to Smith returned a few days after we started



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east. I tried to get a copy of Smith's
reply, but could not. Blanchard says
it was a cold and insulting letter

Buchanan says the emigrants are
well and in good spirits, but they
are out of money and nearly out
of provision. It seems to me that
something must be done and that
too soon, to secure provision for them
for the winter, if we intend to have
them remain there. Large quantities
can now be bought up here cheap.
Our emigrants will suffer unless
something of this kind is done.
You are aware of the state of our
funds here and at Chicago.

After you left me at Chicago I pro-
ceeded to look up the knives and
had engaged about 100 when I
went to the Com. Rooms to get my
money, there they informed me

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they had held a meeting that morning
and decided not to purchast any knives
but if I had engaged any they would
pay for them; the reason they gave
for changing their decision was that
they had seen in the morning paper
a statement that our men had ar-
rived safely in Kansas and they
thought there was no need of buying
them knives, so instead of getting
184 knives I had to come off with
about 100. They gave me \$75. for ex-
penses which I have used up. besides
nearly all my own funds in expenses
and sending forward the stuff that
was here. Mr Jones advanced \$56.25
for the man who brought those guns
from Iowa City; I have a letter authorizing
Eldridge to draw for \$1000. which is
the extent of our funds here, and
no more at Chicago

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I learn from various reliable sources that large quantities of provisions are being bought up along the Missouri line and that a large number of waggon with tents and camping fixtures are being fitted out at Doniphan, St. Charles and other points along the Missouri, and that quite a force is collecting on the Big Blue, what the objects of these movements are I cannot learn.

While I was gone to Chicago word came here that there was five suspicious boxes at Plattsmouth, left there by a man who got frightened, and was afraid to take them further; The Law & Order men had threatened to open them; Mr Jones thinking they might be guns sent a man to look after them and gave him an order to get them if they proved to be what they were reported



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The man returned the day I arrived here and reported, that he found the boxes but that one day a short time since when the man in whose care they were left was gone, a party of Law & Order men came and opened them and found they contained plows chains and other property of an honest old bachelor who had started for Kansas to settle but got frightened and left his things with a free state man at that place, and is now at work over the river waiting for matters to get quiet so he can go into Kansas so you see the property of an honest emigrant going to Kansas is not safe from the hands of the Buffins even up as far as Plattsmouth; and the Law and Order party are allowed to commit their depredations in Nebraska as well as in Kansas; the resolutions of

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a meeting in Cass Co. (a report of which
you will see in the N.B. Tribune or National
Era. I think Plattsmouth is in Cass Co. }
to the contrary notwithstanding

I am waiting anxiously Eldridges
return he will probably be here in
a few days. The company of emigrants
we met at Iowa City will be along soon

I would like to hear from you.
I feel anxious to know what is going
on at the east, and what the prospects
of our cause are. it seems to me
that unless funds are forthcoming to purchase
provision and establishing a depot here
there is no need of any one staying here
for nothing can be done unless there
is something to do with. Whatever I can
do to be of any service to the Com. either
here in the Territory or elsewhere I am at
their service Hoping to hear from
you soon I remain Your Truly A.D. Searl