

Milton C. Dickey to Thaddeus Hyatt

This letter to Thaddeus Hyatt of the National Kansas Committee, written by Milton Dickey from Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, informed Hyatt of Dickey's journey west. The author described the hardships endured by Kansas settlers, as well as the enthralling tale of a free state man who escaped from the prison at Lecompton.

Creator: Dickey, Milton C.

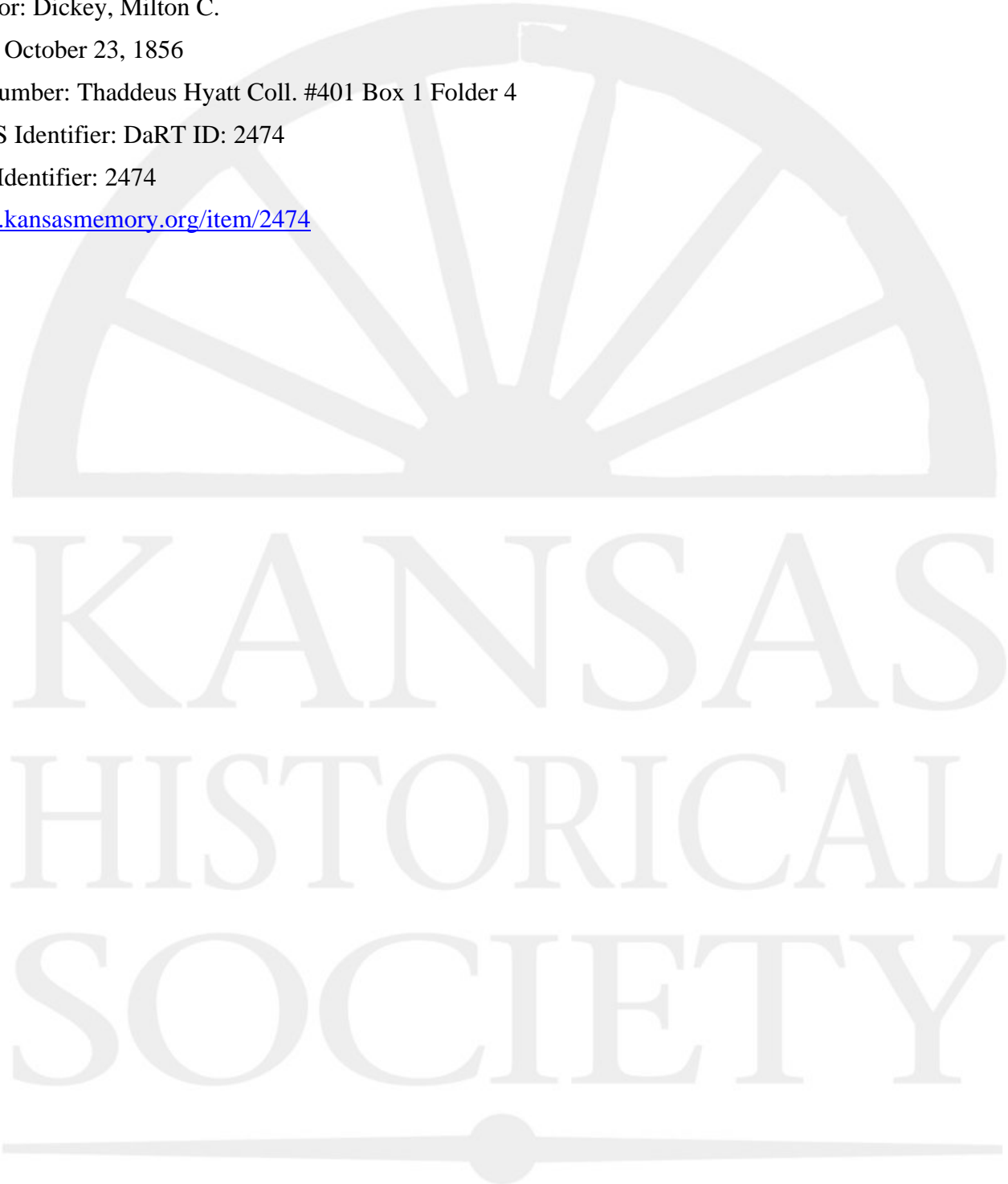
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[Hyatt Coll.]

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Mr. Pleasant Sound Oct 23/56
Mr. Hyatt
Dear sir

I take this opportunity to write you a few lines to inform you of the progress of my journey. I arrived here last eve and shall start tomorrow if it is pleasant. It is raining hard today and I am awaiting to have it clear up a little before starting. Doct Root is here and will go along with me. There is two hundred sharp rifles and a six pounder (cannon) that is along 3 days ahead now with other munitions that is to be sent into the territory some how but it will be rather difficult for our road is now guarded by the 11th Troops, this evening they came into this place a man ^{Mr Perkins} that I know who is perfectly reliable who tells me the troops are watching and stopping every one who goes in over the new road and unless they can give such satisfaction as they

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the Pro Slavery Officers require
they are detained as prisoners
he gives a distressing account
of affairs in the Territory of the
hardships and trials of our men
hundreds are leaving and being
driven away there is scarcely
here that are on their way out he
tells me many families are
moving out, something must
be done to stop this emigration from
the Territory I have persuaded most
of these that are here to go back with
me this man tells me they have
a warrant for me that an effort
will be made at once to get me
when I go in but it seems to me
that I must hasten to the
territory and to lend my assistance
in this enterprise although it looks
darker than it has ever done before
but the field must not be deserted
Mr Perkins was one that was arrested
and held as prisoner at Leecompton
charged with over a hundred others
with the crimes of Murder Treason
Arson Man slaughter and Robbery
he crawled 4 hours on his belly
to get away he said that they had

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been 40 hours without any thing to
 eat - that the prisoners had offered
 as high as 25 cents for one cracker
 and that had been denied them he
 gave an account of his arrest which
 was at Topeka Gov Geary sent word
 to that place that he was coming to
 make a speech to the people when
 he came in to town ^{they} wished to show
 him respect ~~they~~ went in to the
 street to welcome him they were
 immediately surrounded with three
 or four hundred U.S. troops when
 they were surrounded Donaldson
 read over a lot of names saying
 he came to arrest those persons
 whilst Geary went away at once
 without making his speech and
 when the men appealed to him to
 know if the Marshall had a right
 to arrest men without a warrant
 he answered that he had this
 is the way our people are deceived
 and led in to the snare by those who
 should protect them. How long
 shall ^{such} infamous and damnable
 work go on unrebuted how long
 are men to be hunted like wild
 beasts for no crime and when taken

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thrown into Prisons confined with
chains kept without food until they
were nearly famished insulted and abused
all because they love ^{and prefer} freedom to slavery,
why is there not a universal cry against
such daring wrongs are men losing
their love of liberty of justice and
humanity it seems so to me
for if not there would be a general
uprising of the masses and sweep
from the face of the earth such
black hearted and infamous
rulers as those who are acting
and carrying such villainy
I must draw this to a close write
me at Nebraska City if convenient
I will try and post you of our
movements as we go along

Yours truly

M. C. Dickey