

Mary Dillon Holliday to Cyrus Kurtz Holliday

Mary Holliday wrote from Meadville, Pennsylvania to her husband Cyrus K. Holliday in Kansas Territory. This, the second letter he received from her, reported the health of his brother George Holliday's family and mentioned her giving money, earned by selling a locket, to his mother. Mary Holliday eloquently expressed her love and the difficulty of their separation. After joking that her cooking skill should meet Kansas Territory standards, she mentioned the plans of Lowry Trowbridge and George Merriman, Pennsylvanians with Kansas fever.

Creator: Holliday, Mary Dillon Jones, 1833-1908

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Callnumber: Cyrus Kurtz Holliday Coll. #386 Box 1 Folder 1

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Mary Dillon Holliday to Cyrus Kurtz Holliday

Dec. 29, 1854

Dec. 22

Friday night half past 11 o'clock

[1854]

My Dear Mr.

I have just finished a letter for that Mother of Ours, a Mother as good as my own, "two the best in America we are blest with" - and the employment delighted me exceedingly - She is now enjoying her usual degree of health - but she said that George's family had been uncommonly afflicted with sickness this winter, Mahala had been confined to her bed the greater part of the winter and a short time ago - was with the help of instruments - delivered of a dead child which nearly caused her death - but under the especial care of Mother and Doctor she is slowly regaining her health

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The Children have also been sick - and George has not been able to work more than half his time, he is very anxious to hear from you, and that Country, as he is going to leave the place in which he now is, and try a more congenial Climate - both for his health and purse, for he has sunk money there - - Mother has not made (as she expected) her visit to Worster - but intends going as soon as their health - and her means will allow, for owing to the amount of sickness - large doctor bills, were the consequence &c &c. -

I wrote her four pages and nicely too much more ~~so~~ than I am writing at present - and as I had just parted with my Locket, for which I received from Miss Sophia Sherwood - the nice little sum of eleven dollars, I begged Mother to accept of Ten - as a New Years Gift from her daughter, who wished to send her a present in the most desirable form

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will she think me impudent
bear it - or will she receive it as I
meant it - as a token of esteem -
I did not tell her how I came by it.
The family has long been participating
in the pleasures of dreamy land -
but I could not join them - before I
addressed a few lines to my husband
in the distance - how I wish to see you
no one can conceive, Oh H - let it not
be long before I can have the joy of having
you near - and can feel the exquisite
pleasure of love returned, I know you
think of me and love me too, but this
separation of two souls knit together
by true and lasting affection - these hearts
that beat as one - I can not endure!
at first I thought I could not live thus
then, I was becoming more reconciled
but now my case is desperate - I want
you here, and then I do not want you
to see one who has changed so much
in her personal appearance lest you

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might doubt ~~it~~ being the one you
left behind - and take flight and
be off to those Western Wilds again
I have been made the happy
recipient of two most welcome
communications from you -
The perusal of which gave me much
pleasure indeed - though I am sorry
you had not received my letters
and a package of papers I sent some
time ago - I am much obliged for the
knowledge you gave me of the realities of
a western life - and the fare you daily
had I am glad ~~they~~ agrees so admirably
with a man of good delicate sensibilities
and I have come to the conclusion
that if what you spoke of were all you
had to subsist upon, that I already
possessed sufficient skill in the art
of cooking - to enable me to dish up in
the most approved style a dinner
of that description - The K-s fever is still
on the increase Lowry Snowbridge and others
are severely attacked, but I do not want
to go within six hundred miles of it -
I am afraid he will corrupt the whole
Territory - George Merriam has got the
contract for this R.R. and it is going on
in the spring without doubt - every one
says so - I have not heard from Hays
since I wrote you last - I must close
this as my room is getting uncomfortably
cool - and I see the new hours are
approaching - Be a good boy, my dear
preserve your health and pardon the appear-
ance of this hasty message - Write often for a letter
from you does me so much good give my
compliments to the gentleman who offered me
his mansion, Good-bye - I shall be around
the bed, I hover whispering over beloved of me, Yours Mary