

## Cyrus Kurtz Holliday to Mary Dillon Holliday

Writing from Topeka, Kansas Territory to his wife, Mary Holliday in Meadville, Pennsylvania, Cyrus K. Holliday joyfully reported receiving a letter from her. He planned to return to Meadville by the middle of April. He encouraged their friend Mr. Ingram to consider returning to Kansas Territory, but cautioned that investing in property was like buying lottery tickets. Holliday described cold weather, with snow indoors and out, and also inquired after family members' health.

Creator: Holliday, Cyrus Kurtz, 1826-1900

Date: March 18, 1855

Callnumber: Cyrus Kurtz Holliday Coll. #386 Box 1 Folder 2

KSHS Identifier: DaRT ID: 2760

Item Identifier: 2760

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## Cyrus Kurtz Holliday to Mary Dillon Holliday

Topeka Kansas Ter.  
March 18. 1858

My Dear Wife

I believe I mentioned in my last that I have after a delay of near two months, received a letter from you - It was dated January - or February - 1858 - I assure you, my dear wife, that nothing could have been more acceptable to me than that letter except your own dear self - Oh! Mary! how I would love to see you and again have the pleasure of clasping you to my bosom - But I must not indulge in such reflections now - I am away here in Kansas; and you there in Iowa; fifteen hundred miles apart and it is vain and foolish to sigh for that which impossibilities prevent us from enjoying - But the time will come, in the providence of a good God, when we will again embrace each other and enjoy each others society - And that time I trust is not far distant; for if I receive the money from you and Ingram for which I have written I will leave for home on, or before, the middle of April - You must however, my dear Mary, take this statement as you have had to take many others; and that is: as being subject to many exceptions, for something may arise between us



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and that time that many wholly thwart  
my purpose - Let nothing that I may  
have said in any of my former letters deter  
Ingram from making his arrangements of  
coming to Kansas - My opinion of the  
Territory is unchanged; and I have seen  
it in its worst possible aspects - And I do  
think if, after ~~having~~ examining what I have  
induced this winter, I am still in love with  
the Territory I shall certainly love it always.

But mark! I do not urge upon Ingram to come  
he knows for himself concerning the Territory;  
and if he is satisfied from what I have from  
time to time written to you concerning it; and  
from what he knows personally concerning it; that  
Kansas is the place for his home; then would  
I indeed be glad to have him come out  
here and make it his home. But he must  
understand it well that investing property  
in Kansas is like buying tickets in a lottery  
He may "draw" a "Capital prize" - He may  
"draw" nothing - "a blank". But he knows  
this as well as I, and much better; therefore  
he must use his own judgment! At the  
same time assuring him that I could not  
be better pleased with any country than I  
am with Kansas! And that I think it possesses  
all the advantages for making money and getting  
a home that we both thought it did not fall



## Cyrus Kurtz Holliday to Mary Dillon Holliday

We are again having cold weather - I think  
day before yesterday was the most stormy day we  
have had - The snow was about six inches  
deep - For two or three days it had been snowing  
gradually; and on Friday afternoon it came  
down with great force - At noon I left  
my house and returned to it after supper  
in the evening - I found the snow everywhere  
throughout my house - I measured it on a board  
and found it three inches deep inside - My bed was  
also covered with snow three inches deep and I took  
my washbowl and with a sweep or broom of the hand  
filled it heaping full and thawed it, or melted it, for  
wash water in the morning! having to economize  
as I have to carry my water one mile - The  
balance of the snow I shook off upon the floor.  
I then took a hoe that some of the boys dug  
from an Indian grave a few days before, and  
with it scraped a pathway from the door to the  
store - I believe you generally use snow shov-  
els outside of the house in Iowa. Remember  
that in Kansas we use them for the inside.

I then turned into bed; slept soundly, if  
not "sweetly" as the poets say - woke up the next  
morning finding my bed again all covered  
with snow - This, my dear wife, is life in Kansas  
do you think you can endure it - I hear you  
answer No! Well! Well! don't do so too quick



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for I certainly hope and pray that neither  
you nor I nor any persons will be obliged  
to live in such houses as we have lived  
in here this winter - For many intelligent  
refined and even very beautiful ladies have  
lived the kind of life and endured the  
hardships above described in this Territory  
this winter - But few of these, however,  
have been in Topeka - though for the past  
two months we have had a few families  
with us - but quite a number of families  
have lived as I have described in the  
City of Lawrence - Things, however, will  
we all trust soon be better -

I regret to learn of your father's  
sickness - and hope this will find  
him well again - I have told me  
nothing about Diggins foot. I hope  
it is well - How are all the rest of the  
folks - Oh how I again wish I was in  
Merriam again by your side to night -  
for it has now got to be night - but but  
I must stop this wishing - I must go  
good - still a man cannot well avoid  
doing so sometimes - I can never help wishing  
when I think of you my dearest wife  
Write me soon  
your truly C. K. Holliday