

Milton M. Powers to Cyrus Kurtz Holliday

Milton M. Powers, Deputy Clerk of Court in Columbus, Ohio wrote to Cyrus K. Holliday, Free State leader and founder of Topeka, Kansas Territory. Powers had read of Holliday's activities in northern newspapers. A presentation of the Wrongs of Kansas, emphasizing Andrew H. Reeder and Samuel N. Wood's experiences, had emotionally motivated Powers to write and assure Holliday of his support. Once a Jeffersonian Democrat, but convicted that the party had abandoned its principles, Powers had become a Republican. He stated that the entire nation was attuned to events in Kansas Territory, and he believed that these events would have intense impact on the nation's future.

Date: June 7, 1856

Callnumber: Cyrus Kurtz Holliday Coll. #386 Box 1 Folder 3

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Milton M. Powers to Cyrus Kurtz Holliday

Powers, Milton M.
6/35

Columbus Ohio, June 7th AD 1856.

Dear Friend. Cyrus K Holliday.

Many months since I had noticed in the reports of doings in Kansas, the published throughout the Country, the name of C K Holliday and it was not until last night that I learned that you were at Topeka and it was your name I had noticed. Last night there was a tremendous and almost enthusiastic meeting at the City Hall to listen to the story of the Struggles of Kansas, from the lips of Reader and A H Wood. As I sat in the Hall and heard the recital of the doings of the "Border Ruffians" I felt my blood leap faster through my ~~leg~~ veins and an imperious indignation at their course filled my heart and I can assure you that the crowd gave unmistakable tokens of their sympathy with the men who have stood up to vindicate the rights of man in that territory.

All true men and lovers of freedom look with great interest to the Territory of Kansas and every paragraph in relation to affairs in the territory is perused carefully and with avidity.

You know that I have always been a democrat and had expected to act with the democracy throughout my life but the new position assumed by the party has forced me to act with the Republicans which I will do with my whole heart. I am a Jeffersonian. Democrat and still believe that Jefferson and Jackson were full as safe guides as the imbecile Pierce or villain Douglass and although the Democratic Party on yesterday placed before the nation James Buchanan for President and John C Breckinridge of K. A. for Vice President yet they have taken their stand upon a platform of principles that repudiates the old fashioned and true democratic creed and affirms the doctrines and creed of Pierce & Douglass.

Cyrus I am glad to hear of you as a free state man and an active and prominent one and let me assure you that as you are from Ohio, you are watched by your fellow citizens and your course approved.

Milton M. Powers to Cyrus Kurtz Holliday

The names of your leading men are familiar throughout the Country and each state feels a pride in the manly and heroic bearing of those who formerly were citizens of the same. and every step taken in Kansas is freely and fully commented upon. The wish of the north is that the free state men may always be right and thus act with the courage which the consciousness that a man is right always inspires.

These are times that try men's souls and I firmly believe that the present political campaign will decide the future destiny of the Republic for as long a period as the action of our Revolutionary fathers decided the destiny of the government in the past.

I want you to write to me giving me a history of yourself and of the times in Kansas.

I am still in the post of Deputy Clerk of Court and still struggling with pecuniary difficulties but I have an abiding faith in a brighter future.

Accept the assurance of my continued regard for you personally and of my sympathy for the cause in which you are engaged.

Respectfully Yours

Milton M. Powers.