

Cyrus Kurtz Holliday to Mary Dillon Holliday

Cyrus K. Holliday wrote from Lawrence, Kansas Territory to his wife, Mary Holliday, who, accompanied by Mrs. Edward C. K. Garvey, had returned to Meadville, Pennsylvania to give birth to her second child. Meanwhile, Cyrus Holliday (who was Vice President of the upper territorial legislative body, the Council) had passed four bills, including one establishing Topeka as the Shawnee county seat. He bought new clothes for the session, since Lawrence had become more refined, with a new hotel. Holliday mentioned emigration to Pikes Peak, the Topeka bridge, trouble in L[i]nn county, and meeting three women, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. [Robert] Morrow, and Mrs. O'Donell (possibly Mrs. William O'Donnall) in Lawrence. He proposed that Liz, Mary Holliday's younger sister, return with her.

Creator: Holliday, Cyrus Kurtz, 1826-1900

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Cyrus Kurtz Holliday to Mary Dillon Holliday

2/25

Connecticut
Lancaster Jan. 30, 1859

Dear Mary

Your letter of the 17th inst. came to hand a day or two since: and you may rest assured that I was very glad to hear from you and of your safe arrival at home: I was also glad to learn of the good health of all your friends.

Your expenses have not much exceeded what I supposed they would be: but I certainly do not like the way Garvey acted in borrowing the money from you which I had just borrowed from him. He has been down two or three times since he returned from Lancashire but has said nothing about it to me. But let that pass for the present.

I am still at Lancaster. The Legislature will close its session in two weeks from yesterday unless we should get an extension of time from Congress. We have petitioned for twenty days more, and I see a bill now introduced into the Senate to that effect. But it is very doubtful about its passage.

The Legislature is working very hard: and as a general thing very acceptably. I succeeded in carrying through ^{some} ~~these~~ very important measures - the electing a Board of Commissioners to Codify the Laws - Another announcing also that

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part of Nebraska which his route as
the Platte River to Kansas. Another calling a
new Constitutional Convention - & the other locating
permanently the County seat of Shawnee County
at Topeka. The Topeka boys fired off their
Canon, held a public meeting, and had a
grand time generally after the passage of this
latter bill. The Topeka people of course
were very angry, and fought the bill from
day to day in the Legislature and before the
Governor, but it did not succeed. I
argued the question for half a day before
the Governor, against those Hoaglands and
others, and finally obtained the Governor's signature
to the bill. Hoagland is trying all he can
to upset the arrangement, but he never suc-
ceeds.

There is much trouble in the Southern
part of the Territory. There was a battle
fought a few days since in Lyman Co. in
which it is reported that ten or twelve men
were killed; but I think this will be found
to be exaggerated.

The emigration is already beginning
to set in for Peoria River. It will reach as
full as a hundred thousand.

I have not been at Topeka
since I came down on the 2nd inst. - I
had intended to have gone up today

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but could not get time

I think I am not losing any friends here this winter. I have the entire confidence of the Council and to a great extent of the House of Rep.

I have bought me a new frock coat and the finest military overcoat you ever saw. I was obliged to do this as there is much more fine dressing here than last winter.

The Eldridge House is fully open - and is very splendid, and elegantly furnished. It is as good a house as any in Cleveland and as large as all the Hotels in Newville put together. It cost \$76,000.

The weather has been very fine all this winter - Excepting a day or two it has been as mild as in September - and to day is as bright and beautiful as a May day.

Mrs. Smith & Miss Morrison made many inquiries about you! and offered many letters that you were not going to spend the winter in Lawrence - I have not seen spoken to another lady in Lawrence since I have been here than the two above. I forgot Mrs. O'Donnell - She inquired about you, and says she is going to Pike's Peak in the Spring - I expect she will as he has been

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is going. He was out all summer, and just returned a week or so ago.

Mrs. Morris's little girl wants you to bring Lilla to see her. She says she has so many nice play things; and Lilla may have them to play with. Mrs. Morris is in the same condition you are, only much worse. She has ceased to come to the public table.

I send you the Daily Republican, and hope you regularly receive it. I wish you would send me some Mercantile papers.

I'm had better subscribe for one and after you read it send it to me.

They are re-building the Topeka Bridge. Now I think I have given you all the news - I want you to write often - very often - Twice a week at least - and don't neglect to do so - These monthly letters I can't endure. Kiss Lilla for me & tell her pa loves her - And here is a kiss for you and an equal, or greater amount of love. Give my love to all the family. Tell me how you are getting along - And how soon you will be confined - Write often -

Yours as ever C. K. Holliday
P.S. Hadn't Liz better come out? Roberts wants to see her