

John James Ingalls to Elias T. Ingalls

Back in Sumer on August 14, 1859, Ingalls wrote regarding the convention's recently completed work and the prospects for the Wyandotte Constitution, now "before the people." The Democrats were "taking strong ground against it" because of the state boundaries set by the delegates (excluded "Southern Nebraska & Pike's Peak"), there was to be no exclusion of "free negroes" from Kansas, and of the "apportionment," which gave the Republicans, and thus their proposed constitution, a big advantage. "The democracy are furious about it [the apportionment] of course and some temporizing Republicans are inclined to smooth the matter over by explanations and euphimisms. I adopt a different ground" Ingalls argued that he "was not aware of any extreme favors or kindnesses extended to the people of Kansas in the last four years by the democratic party which warranted any very delicate considerations form the party in power today."

Creator: Ingalls, John James, 1833-1900

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John James Ingalls to Elias T. Ingalls

P.D.

Sumner, Kansas.

14. Aug. 1859.

Dear Father.

Your favor of the 6th inst. reached me last Evening, just one week from home, an unusually short passage, though even that time should be diminished at least two days. The distributing post office for the territory is now at St. Joseph, instead of Independence Mo. — The change having been made on the 1st of July. It ought to have been located at Leavenworth but Kansas can expect no favors from the administration.

I intended to have acknowledged the receipt of the Land Warrant & thought I did so, though as my last was written in the greatest haste, it probably escaped me. I have loaned it for \$250, payable next July, and shall undoubtedly be

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able to remit you the sum necessary to cancel
the note with interest when due.

In the last letter I wrote Mother, a week
or ten days since, alluded to the close
of the Convention, and my trip to the
nominating Convention at Lawrence.

The Constitution is before the people, and
meets with very general approbation. The
democrats are taking strong ground against
it, because it does not include Southern
Nebraska & Pike's Peak, because it does
not exclude free negroes & on account of
an apportionment which cannot fail to
secure a large Republican majority in the
State organization. It was done by grouping
counties - those largely Republican with
others doubtful or democratic - in such
a manner that success is a certainty. The
democracy are furious about it of course
and some temporizing Republicans are

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inclined to smooth the matter over by
Explanations and Euphemisms. I adopt a
different ground, and in a speech which
I made at Atchison at a mass ratification
meeting last Evening, I told them distinctly
that I assisted in making the appointment
and voted for it, because I thought it was
one that would win: that I was not
aware of any Extreme favors or kindness
Extended to the people of Kansas in the
last four years by the democratic party
which warranted any very delicate
consideration from the party in power to-day.
The Whigs voted some, but the majority
Expressed approbation.

The instrument has not yet been printed
for distribution, but I will forward a copy
in a few days. The language, expression, and
arrangement are mine, as Chairman of

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The Committee for that purpose. It was submitted
 to an Exhaustive pressure and is about as near
 Crystallized, I think as language admits.
 The amount of superfluous matter rejected,
 of verbiage pruned, and of errors corrected,
 can only be understood from comparison
 with the original drafts submitted by the
 various Committees. It is my hope that
 for accuracy of definition, conciseness of
 expression and terseness of language, it is
 "a model instrument" as it was before on in
 October. The 4th I think, has been appointed
 to speak in its behalf at mass meetings through
 this part of the territory once each week till
 its adoption. Business is very quiet, but I manage
 to get along. I have got a little real Estate, some
 town lots, considerable territorial scrip and divers
 and sundry property which may amount to something
 one of these days. - Saw glad the letters in
 the Journal met your approbation. They were for a
 recreation rather than a positive effort. The quotation
 from "Smollett" if I remember rightly, can be found
 at the head of the "Even Banner." Smollett, I think.