

Hiram Hill to Dear Wife

Hiram Hill arrived in Lawrence, Kansas Territory shortly after the end of the Wakarusa War. This letter to his wife reviewed the events of the war, made mention of women's assistance, described Hill's journey from Leavenworth with Mr. Conway, and gave an account of Thomas W. Barber's funeral, at which Charles Robinson and James Lane spoke. Barber was killed south of Lawrence on the 6th. Hill had met Mr. Whitney, Judge Johnson, Mr. Haskell, and Mr. Simpson, and planned to visit Charles Robinson. Hill also detailed Governor Shannon's settlement with free state leaders at Lawrence.

Creator: Hill, Hiram, 1804-

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Hiram Hill to Dear Wife

Lawrence Sabbath December 16 1865

Dear Wife

I arrived here Thursday eve and was very much disappointed in not finding a letter from you. I have not heard a word from you since I left Ohio. The mail was again due last eve. I went to the office there was no mail from the East so that I shall have to wait until Friday of this week before I can learn anything from you. If I am again disappointed I shall start immediately for home. My health has been improving ever since I left Lexington, when I left there I thought I should be on my way home before this but I have been drawn along from place to place until I arrived here upon the ground where ten days since there was an armed force of about eight hundred to one thousand men - surrounded with an army of about twenty five hundred to three thousand all armed to the teeth, this town looks like a fortified town there enough they have four forts besides several fortifications besides stone walls thrown up almost round the city. When I arrived in Lawrence City I heard that the war had ceased and peace was declared. I found Mr Conway who you have heard me speak of sick with the fever and ague he wanted me to get him out here very much so I got a man with two horses and a hack to come and bring us out. He got so that the man and in stead of getting here in one day we had to stay to an Indian over night and only got here the next

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Day in the eve it was only about 30 miles, on arriving
 here we found the people exulting over their picture
 although they had lost two men who were murdered
 you could almost see one man who was shot ~~that~~ was
 buried to day, there was a great collection of people
 to the funeral he was buried under military honors
 there was three companies and his widow was almost
 inconsolable his name was Barker, he was about
 35 years old he was returning from this place to
 his family about four miles out his brother was
 with him with one other man with them Barker
 was unmarried. Had five Minsters present a Band
 of music. Doct Robinson and Calvin Lane made each
 an address doct Robinson was very much entitled
 I hope this trouble will be the end of the troubles
 here. I think the Misereans have got enough and
 that they will not come over here to molest the whites
 again. The people here were all united Men Women
 and Children. It is said the Ladies were very patriotic
 and done a great deal to encourage the Men by making
 clothes and repairing bandages &c. Mr Whitney arrived
 here with Judge Johnson without any serious trouble.
 Johnson was shot on the way and detained about
 two hours and then let go again. Mr Whitney's family
 are all well and wish to be remembered to you. I saw
 Mr Markell and family salute they were over here
 they are comfortably well Mr Markell has had the ague
 but is quite smart. Mr Simpson was in here

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Saturday he looks as pale as a ghost - But laughs
and says he enjoys it - I have not been up to meet
Robinson yet but have seen him he gave me a very
strong invitation to come up to day I think I shall go this
he says his family are well they have a good deal of company
at this time that is the reason I have not been there before
This place has built up a good deal since I left here
Last June they had some very fine children the sun
vagons are expected along here this week I think I
shall stay here untill they come or untill next week
then I shall start for home it will take me seven or
eight days to reach Mansfield if I should have
good luck it will take about a week to get to St Louis
in regard to your stopping there untill I come you
must be judge if you are well and can content your
self untill I come I should be glad but if not then
I think you had better go home - but it will be quite a
undertaking for you at the inclement season - we had
some snow for the first time this season but it
fell about one inch deep the sun shines pleasant to day
there will be no snow in a few hours - I have said
nothing about the settlement between the two armies
I understand that Governor Shannon requested that
the settlement should not be published at present
the Lawrence people are pretty well satisfied with it
The governor conferred a commission of general on Fort Cobb
and Capt Lane and has enrolled the Lawrence people into
the militia of the territory and told them to Repell all
foreign aggression and that he will use his influence to

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To have the Lawrence people paid for all their
trouble and damage - he acknowledges that he was misinfor-
med in relation to affairs here and that he is true
his proclamation hastily and under a mistaken
impression - and that he will not in future recognize
Missouri as soldiers in this territory - you will
get an account of the proceedings here in the papers
they will send you one with the letter.

Affectionately yours

Hiram Hill

Prs. Remember me to Edmund & Mary & all
the family & all who may inquire after me