

Isaac Goodnow correspondence

Section 31, Pages 901 - 930

This series of the Isaac Tichenor Goodnow collection includes sent and received correspondence of Isaac T. Goodnow (1814-1894) and also the correspondence of his brother, William E. Goodnow (1807-1876). This correspondence includes early courtship letters between Isaac and his future wife, Ellen Denison, as well as letters between William and his future wife, Harriet Paddleford. There are also several letters written by their brother, Jotham Goodnow. The correspondence is arranged in chronological order. Box 6 includes undated letters arranged by the first letter of the correspondent's last name. Isaac Goodnow moved to Kansas in 1855 and established the town of Manhattan and Bluemont Central College. He died on March 20, 1894.

Date: 1826-1940

Callnumber: Isaac T. Goodnow Coll. #357, Box 1-6

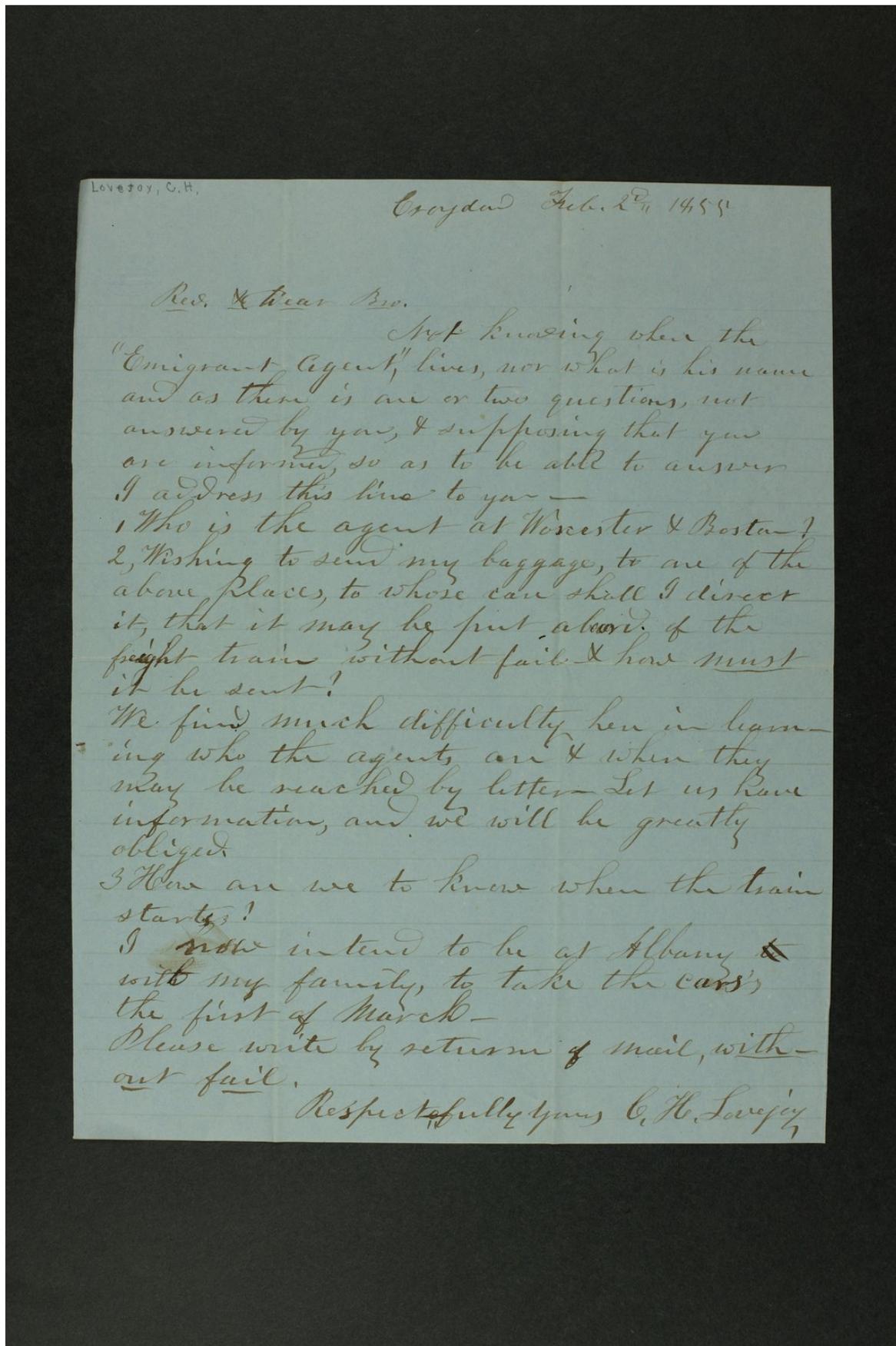
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Isaac Goodnow correspondence



Lovejoy, C. H.

Croydon Feb. 24 1855

Rev. & Dear Bro.

Not knowing where the "Emigrant Agent," lives, nor what is his name and as there is one or two questions, not answered by you, & supposing that you are informed, so as to be able to answer I address this line to you —

1 Who is the agent at Worcester & Boston?
2, Wishing to send my baggage, to one of the above places, to whose care shall I direct it, that it may be put aboard of the freight train without fail & how must it be sent?

We find much difficulty here in learning who the agents are & when they may be reached by letter. Let us have information, and we will be greatly obliged.

3 How are we to know when the train starts?

I now intend to be at Albany & with my family, to take the cars, the first of March —

Please write by return of mail, without fail.

Respectfully yours C. H. Lovejoy,

Isaac Goodnow correspondence

Shattuck, T.

Calverain Feb 5th /55

Brother Goodnow

your last has bin rec^d but had written
you previous to receiving it, I have
sold my place & expect to make
out the land this week & intend
to work as expeditious as possible
to get ready to go with you for fear
I should be too late for me to secure
it may be to take a voyage with
you if I wait untill you come up I
want you to secure a ticket & send
for me only as I shall seem very tardy
behind I give the age of my children
but perhaps they may not all go with us
Ananda 18 years Frank 6 16 Julia 4
Please ascertain if any doubts about
our getting a passage in the first
train of Emigrants

Yours truly
T. Shattuck



Burdick, E. D.

Dorrville Feb. the 5th 1855

Mr Goodnow Sir

I take my pen in hand to write you a few lines not as an old correspondence or friend but as one that hold kindred sentiments with you upon some of the leading topics of the day I by chance received a number of the Pendulum published at East Greenwich containing a very able article upon the prospects of Kansas written by yourself which has almost settled the question in my own mind whether I shall go out to Kansas or not in favour of going. I approve of the tone in which it is written and sympathise with you in your honest endeavours to secure to that important Territory the untarnished blessings of freedom I am truly glad when I hear of men of influence who are not only ready to write upon this subject but to act to go on to the ground with companies of men and contest the battles of freedom Action is what is wanted If men who feel an interest in setting bounds to Slavery and can make arrangements to go to that inviting and promising land soon

Isaac Goodnow correspondence

will do so we may consider the question settled
The repeal of the Missouri Compromise of
1820 which had pledged to freedom solemnly
pledged all of ^{the} Country north of $36^{\circ} 30'$ includ-
-ing of course the recently created Territories of Kansas
and Nebraska was but to extend this man de-
grading institution of Southern Slavery
Who does not see that the repeal of this com-
promise has aimed a powerfull blow at the
rights of the North and shall we tamely sub-
-mit to this degradation No. We must not
longer remain passive The time has come
for action and we who can mus engage our-
selves to the work There is a great field open
for extensive operation Prompt action will I
hope decide the destinies of this fair Country
and perhaps of the nation to the Satisfaction
of our most sanguine anticipations

Thinking that you are pretty
well posted up on the Subject of Frizes &
C. I have written to ^{you} hoping to get from you
information necessary to one who contemplates
going there to settle I should like to know
where to get tickets from to carry one and family
through I am aware there is an Emory road & it

Isaac Goodnow correspondence

Companies in Boston but I am not much acquainted with its operations I suppose though it has Agents at Providence New York and other places Has this Company contracted with ^(only one) Mail Road line from Boston and if so which way by N-Y and so on to Dunkirk by the Southern line through N.Y. State or by Albany and so on to Buffalo How soon will Companies begin to move on If I go I shall full have to fall in with some of them Will there be Steamboats on the Mississippi River ready to carry passengers through when they get to the terminus of the Rail Road or will the Boats be under the control of the Missourians who it seems are bound to do all they can to keep Northern men out of said Territory And another thing will those who go to settle find these boarding houses ready at such places as will be convenient and will the means of living untill it can be raised from the Soil be brought within the reach of the Settler by the Companies and also tools and implement for farming can they be had in the Territory or will we have to depend upon the tender regard of the Missourians to supply them

Isaac Goodnow correspondence

Can one if he chooses to do so pay down for the
land at once and get a title or will write ^{he has to} a
whole for it. What will be the probable
expense per person after the journey
If sir ~~if~~ you will write me about
this matter I shall be very much gratified & obliged
Ever yours for the cause of humanity
and Freedom
G. D. Burdick
To Mr. S. T. Goodnow
Direct to Dorville P. O. N. J.

Isaac Goodnow correspondence

Providence Feb. 7th 1855

Br Goodnow:

Cold weather and unexpected items of business have somewhat varied my arrangements. I did not go with Br Alyn, and in consequence of the severe weather I suppose it would not have amounted to much if I had.

I leave to-day for Worcester. Were it not for the very cold weather I would propose to meet you at Millville, but I suppose any arrangement of that kind would be ~~more~~ inexpedient.

Success to you ~~my~~ dear Goodfellow for Kansas. I hope to live to see the day, when I can swing my hat for freedom upon the plains of Kansas. Who once would have thought that any such development would have driven you and yours thus away into the wilderness? Ay, and that too, to be tempted by the Devil, alias Douglas, to feel that the righteous must be controlled by the wicked. But I must not begin to talk. Poor Webster, - I can't learn much about him, and it "seems like" they don't intend to have any more meetings here for Kansas.



My love to sister G.
Should you find anything of importance
to say, write me Care of Division + Rhinny
175 New York - Or if within the present
week, direct to Care of C. Gaster Esq.
Worcester Mass.
My house in New York will be kept
informed as to my whereabouts and
re-mail my letters accordingly.
Yours &c
IISG 111

Isaac Goodnow correspondence

Ellen Hill Feb 8th 1855

My dear Brother

Being desirous of learn-
ing something about Kansas, and
feeling a deep interest in its future,
I assure you, I felt grateful when I
saw what you published in the
Liberator last week, and not being ac-
quainted with the address of any of the
offices of the Congregation and Society,
and still wishing for further informa-
tion, I have concluded to trespass upon
your attention, and if you can find time
to favour me with a few lines answer-
ing the questions proposed, you will
very much oblige me, and others, in
this place, whose hearts beat in unison
with yours, in regard to the great question
of the day. I am as you can see by refer-
ring to the Minutes of the New York Conf.
a member of that body, but last summer

Isaac Goodnow correspondence

I had a severe turn of bleeding from
the lungs, which has disabled me
and Physicians say it will not be
safe for me to take an appointment
again, in these parts. I think it
my duty to go where there is a prospect
of better health, if I can. I have
thought of these bad symptoms except
great weakness of the lungs.

I will now propose the questions:—

1st What time will another company
go out after the 1st of March, (for
I cannot go at that time)?

2nd How can I become connected
with a company going out, must
there be an understanding with the
officers beforehand?

3rd Do those who fall in at Hbang
pay just as much as those who
start from Boston and Springfield?

4th If I should go, could I secure a
job on their person as well as for my
self, providing that person would
come on an settle within six months?
Are persons who go out under the
aid Society under their direction
after they arrive there, if so, to what
extent?

5th What is the price of Horses &
cars

6th Is there any reason to fear that
the Indians will be troublesome to
settlers?

7th Would there be any objection on
the part of the Society to my belonging
to one of these companies because I
am not in sound health?

8th When will a person apply for
information about what lands are
not taken up, and a little had for
land he may be disposed to take up?

9th Some say that 160 acres are given

Isaac Goodnow correspondence

t each actual settler, others say that
finally this land must be paid for
if it must be paid for, why talk of
having it given?

Now my dear Brother I would
not troubled you, had I any other
way of getting information, so I
beg you to pardon the liberty I have
taken. I would go next month
was it not for closing up circuit matters
and attending the next session of our
conference which is the 1st of May con-
sequently I cannot go till the last of
May. Are you a minister, if so, to what
church do you belong? If it will not
be asking too much, please answer
this immediately and you will very
much oblige me

Yours in Christ
S. M. Robinson
Ellenbill Elder Co
Mo.

Isaac Goodnow correspondence

Jennison, 5.

Natick Feb. 8, 1855.

Dear Br. G. Yours of the 18, came in time - for which I thank you. Permit me once more to intrude a moment on your precious time and patience.

I have two sons and one son in law, who have made up their minds to go west this spring. Some say Iowa, is preferable to Kansas and advise them to go to Iowa. But from all I can learn of either, my wish is they may go with you. In addition to what you published in the Herald, I desire a ~~few~~ more particulars, 1 Have you or any of the Co. been out to K. 2 Have you made any selection, or fixed on any particular place, 3 How will the Co. probably settle themselves there, 4 Do you purpose to purchase a township, 5 or will each individual choose his own location, &c.

I had a conversation last week with Br Charles Barns of Lawrence City, He said he was going on with you in March with three sons. He thought the way would be for families to settle adjoining each other, purchase a team and plough and assist each his neighbour, and thus establish a pleasant society. I feel anxious my sons may settle in such a community. In Iowa, much of the best lands have been entered, a mixture of all sorts of society of course, is the result. A Gentleman was at my house to day

Isaac Goodnow correspondence

who has made a purchase of 1200 Acres in Iowa, in Hardin Co. He says all the sections are taken up for several miles around him but a very few of them are settled, persons who have entered them demand a great price. Some who have made but small improvements asks 3000 \$ for 160. Acres, In a word they are a set of speculators, said the above named Gentleman the men who go out there are sharpers. Now I do not wish my children to settle in such a community.

I think by leave of Providence should my sons go out to Kansas and succeed tolerably well, and my health remain ~~so~~ good as it now is I may sell my farm in a year or two, and move out and join in the good society I hope you will succeed in forming.

P.S. I called on a Mr Daily last week who has a son in Kc. went there last August. has ^{sent} 3 letters home like the country much purchased 1 section in the City of Lawrence 2 more 5 miles out said the poorest part he purchased is better than the richest to be found in Mass. like the county he gave me a paper published in Lawrence I like it much.

Some say the southern parts is sandy land poor timber small and scarce &c. I add no more -!! Be so kind as to answer this as soon as convenient.

As ever yours
J. Garrison

Isaac Goodnow correspondence

Arms, Robert B. also
G. [Goodnow], E. P.

Prattboro Feb 12th, 1855.

Dear Sir,

I received a letter a short time since from your brother William, stating that he was bound for Kansas next month, saying at the same time that you were also going with him, my object in writing you is to gain all the information you may give me in regard to emigrating there, the expense from here, and the inducements that are held to those who may choose to go there, I for one are bound to go and if I go I think my Father will go also, and perhaps some others from this place, but cannot close up our affairs so as to start before the first of April, wish you could inform me how much the expense will be to go there and particulars, also whether we can go for the same price by the first of April as when you go in March. It is reported that there is one Company in Massachusetts also one at New York for the purpose of forming parties of emigrants to Kansas, would like to know which you intend to go with and all other information and advice which you can afford to give us on the subject we are from what I have been able to

Isaac Goodnow correspondence

learn I think I should like to give up our
business here and start for Kansas and try
my luck with the multitude.

Father Mother & myself join in sending
our best regards to you and yours, and all friends.
Our friends this way are all well I believe. I hope
to hear from you soon I subscribe myself
Dear Husband,
Yours truly &c
Robert Adams

I have received seven letters since
you left, and this which I have copied was on the other
half of the sheet. I shall copy one more on the back
of your Dr Williams, and send one entire, and copy
what I think will be of importance out of
Simon Perigo. The others are from Nancy, father
Perrison, and a man in West Feary. I think they can
remain until you get back. Nancy and family are all
well, had not rec^d my last letter, but should judge from
the letter that if I was well enough to take care of myself
they would like to have me out there. I have been at Dr
Hays from Wednesday morn until this which is
Friday. Had a good visit through the rainy days. Joe
& Lilly are coming down with the measles. I am better
so that I think I shall be able to do up business all but
packing the rest. You must come in season to rest
some, and send word ^{write} if you want me to do any thing
that you have not told me of Mount Parish was lugged
to day. That Dr Merrill who lived here that was sick in
Providence was lugged on Monday. Soone that wanted to go
with you, has gone home to Heaven. Take good care of your
health, and give my love to all. Yours most truly E. D. G.

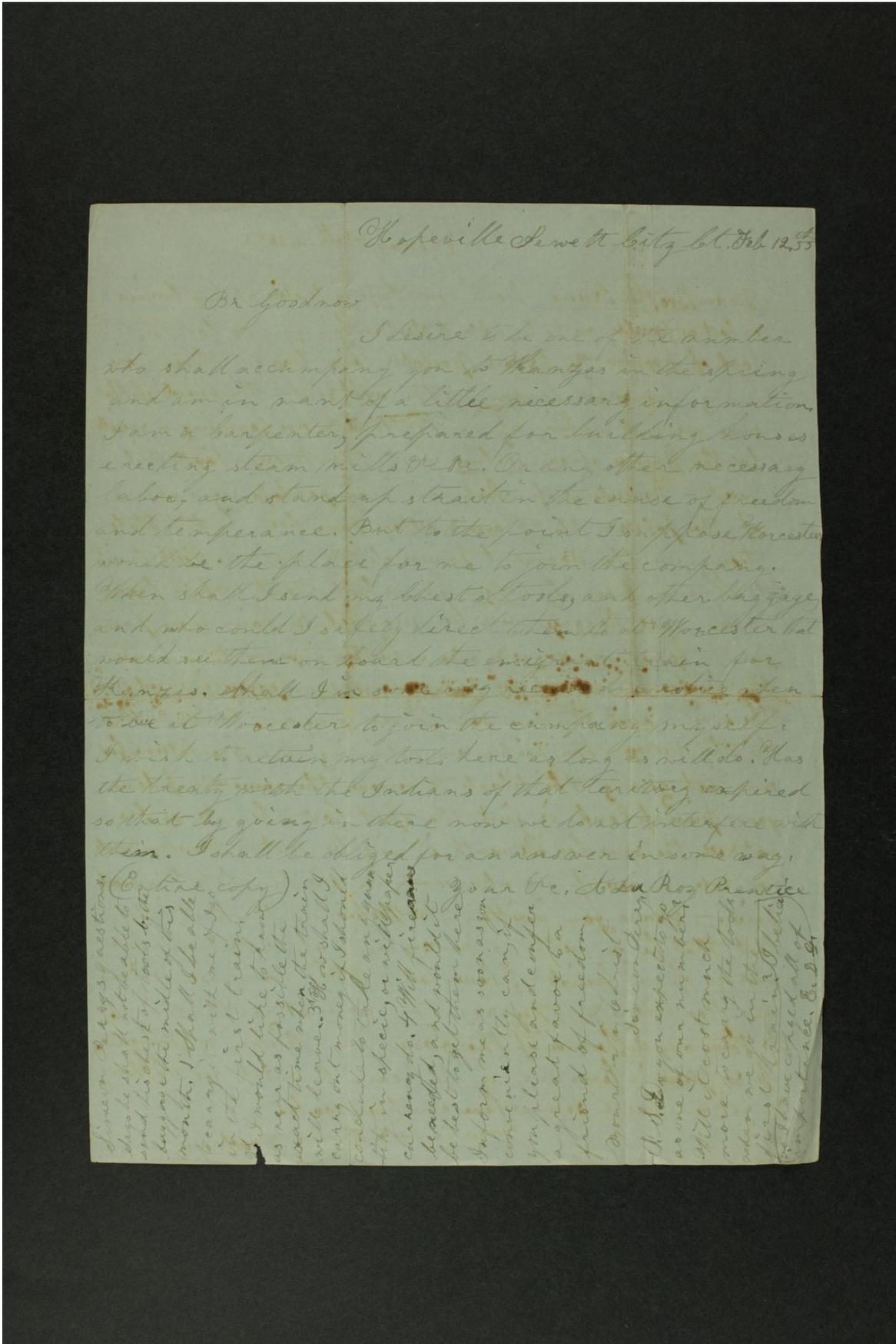
Isaac Goodnow correspondence

Wormway, Feb. 14, 1855—

Dear Brother Isaac— I am now trying to close up my business as fast as possible, so to be able to start when you do for the land of promise & I shall probably have two or three more young men for company on the night boat— the friends of the cause are just waking up in Monttard & are forming a society for the purpose of connecting with the Massachussetts Civil Society— proceedings of which you may perhaps see in some of the papers— Eli Thayer & others have been in this state stirring up the dormant powers of the sleepers. Well, I wish to know precisely when you shall start, where from, & how all baggage will be wrapped, & how you pur-
 pose to have yours go: & also whether our route will cross the Lake or not— if so, I shall have my baggage insured. There is a great stir here now for removing our county buildings to this village— the people are petitioning the Legislature for an act giving the liberty to remove the same— & if done your piece of land is just the spot for them, & as I can not sell the same for its worth, it will be put in Messley's hands for sale, in case of my absence— & in due time fetch a good price. — Have you written Mr. Melber— I think it important that he go with us now;— write of all that you know will go of our friends— I have had a letter from Mr. French & Donkerson, & they say they cannot go this spring. Is there any difference of the fare from Boston, or Springfield, if so, please inform me, as, if I can, I want to see Mother & get on board somewhere on the route.

Yours in haste Wm. C. Goodnow

Isaac Goodnow correspondence



Hopeville Sewell City Ct. Feb 12th 53

Dr Goodnow

I desire to be one of the number who shall accompany you to Wenzel in the spring and am in want of a little necessary information. I am a carpenter, prepared for building houses erecting steam mills &c. In any other necessary labor, and stand up straight in the course of freedom and temperance. But to the point I am for Worcester would be the place for me to join the company. When shall I send my chest of tools, and other baggage, and who could I safely direct them to at Worcester that would see them on board the engine to remain for Kansas. Shall I in some way receive the advice when to come at Worcester to join the company myself. I wish to retain my tools here as long as will do. Has the treaty with the Indians of that territory expired so that by going in there now we do not interfere with them. I shall be obliged for an answer in some way.

(Entire copy)
If you are going to see me, please send his chest of tools by the way as the middle of the month, I shall be able to bear it with me by the first train. I would like to have as near as possible the exact time when the train will leave. I shall carry out money if I should contribute to take an amount in specie, or with paper currency do. I will procure bread, and would it be best to get them here. Inform me as soon as you conveniently can, if you please and employ a great favor to a friend of freedom.
I shall be glad to hear from you.
I shall expect to go as one of our number. Will it cost much more to carry the tools when we go in the first train? I shall be glad to have all of your news. E. D. G.

Isaac Goodnow correspondence

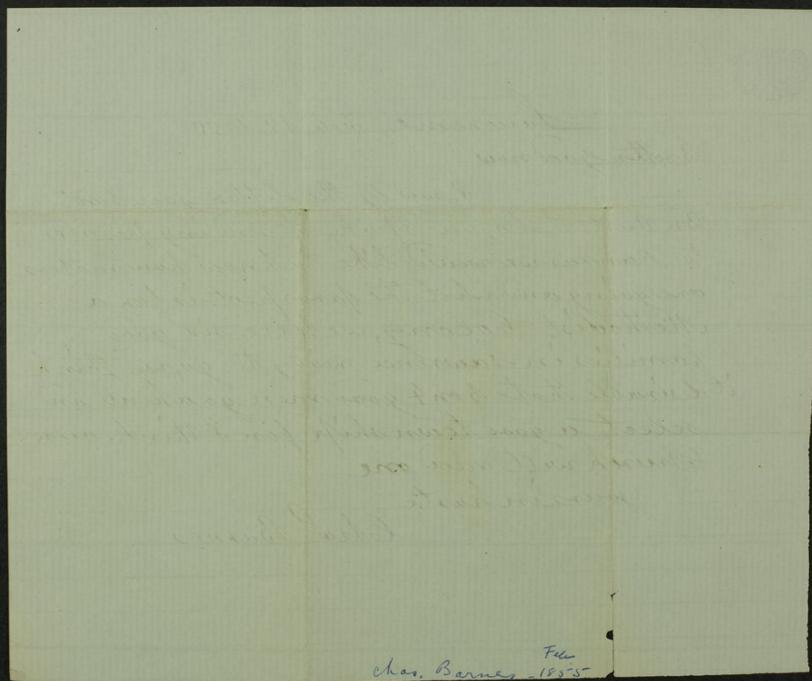
Lawrence Feb 15 1855

Brother Goodnow

I saw by the letter you sent
Bro Rust that you spoke of sending pioneers
to Kansas we would like to know how matters
are going and what the prospect is for a
Methodist colony, we have six good
families in Lawrence ready to go, we think
it desirable that 3 or 4 good men go ahead and
select a good township for I think our
Church will need one

yours in haste
Chas Barnes

Isaac Goodnow correspondence



Isaac Goodnow correspondence

Arnold, W. G.

Wassocket Feb. 18. 1855
Mr Goodnow -
Dear Sir -

Please to excuse
me for intruding upon your attention,
which, considering our short acquaintance,
I have no right to claim. I suppose
however that you remember my intro-
duction to you by B. E. Borden Esq. at
the close of your Lecture on Kansas
in this place

The object of my writing is
to obtain information in regard to those
intending to go from your vicinity
but more especially of those who intend
to make farming their business.
It is my present intention to go early
this spring, but I wish to be in company
with some New England people who would
like to take up farms so as to form
a neighborhood, and if practicable
near some town or rather "City site"



Isaac Goodnow correspondence

It seems as important that farmers should be in communities, so far as the nature of their business would allow as Merchants or Mechanics.

There are many in this vicinity that would be ready to go in the Spring or by Autumn if they could be assured of "finding things" as they should be on their arrival in the Territory. People are afraid that there would be the same want of efficiency in the Emigrant Aid Company that is felt here, both in regard to obtaining information and the tardiness in complying with their promises, having saw and grist mills early erected and provisions for as early settlement as it would be for the benefit of the settler.

I would like to have you inform me when you intend to go also if you intend farming as your business and, if so, if you are favorable to entering a new locality and how many there are in your vicinity

who intend to follow the same occupation.

I wish to be certain of settling in a neighborhood of New England Farmers, before starting on so long a journey. ~~I want~~ I am aware that it will be of the utmost importance to be settle in a community whose words and honor will be a law for the settlement of all land claims when the surveys have been made. There will be quite a number from Moonsocket to visit ^{this Spring} Kansas, but how many will stay time only will determine. A Brother in Law will come as soon as I send for him. I saw several last evening, one an independent farmer, who thinks of going out in the Fall to settle with their families. We shall have a lecture on Wednesday Evening by Mr Lincoln.

My present business is teaching which I have followed about ten years, and wish to commence farming. Please to inform me as soon as convenient.

Isaac Goodnow correspondence

and thereby help on the glorious
cause of human freedom by settling
Kansas with men of love, virtue and
wish to make it a temperance and
consequently a law abiding State

Yours Most Respectfully

Wm. G. Arnold

P.S. Mr. Borden requests me to
inform you that we intend to
hold a select meeting of those
intending to go to Hecaras & his spring
and we would like to have you
attend. He may see you in
Providence before that time
Yours &c Wm. G. Arnold



Isaac Goodnow correspondence

Crocker, Nathan F.

Westfield Feb 19th 1855

Rev Isaac Goodnow

Dear Bro

It is my intention
(unless otherwise ordered by Divine Providence)
to emigrate to Kansas this spring, and I
wish by all means to go with the first com-
pany that I may select my farm and at
once occupy it, and commence its cultivation.

My object in going to Kansas is two fold.
First to secure a permanent home for my
family, second, to use my influence against
the spread of the blighting curse of slavery
over that beautiful territory, and this I am
ready to do to the extent of my ability. My object
in addressing you is to enquire whether the emig-
rant-aid society furnish any facilities to emig-
rants going out under their protection beyond
procuring them a cheap passage, or whether
any of the company going out this spring could
furnish a small amount of funds, say one hundred
dollars, and take security on the land after
it is taken possession of. If you know of any such
chances, will you please inform me by letter
at once, as I should ^{like} to get that amount in addition
to what I can raise myself. And as I am a

Isaac Goodnow correspondence

perfect stranger to you I will refer you to the
publishers of the News Letter in this town Messrs
Porter & Paul, To Rev Mark Trafton the preacher
in charge in this place, to the Rev Charles Baker
in Hubbardston, To Bro Wm A Bronson Barre
Bro Sada Crosby Southampton and to many
other Preachers, and Laymen in the M. E. Church
in the New England Conference if necessary

Yours truly

Nathan F. Crocker

Br Goodnow,

I have been intimately
acquainted with Br Crocker for
some 12 or 15 years, & can cheer-
fully recommend him as a man
in whom you can place the
utmost confidence. He is my next
door neighbor, & an esteemed member
of the M. E. Church & as rank an
Abolitionist as there is in the State

If you are going out to Kansas
with him (if you can) & if you
can help him to the Coast, he
will more than make you good.

Elijah Porter
Ed. N. Letter

Isaac Goodnow correspondence

Burdick, E. D.

Dorville Feb. the 19th /55

Mr. Goodnow Dear Sir

I take the liberty of trespassing upon your attention again Hoping that I may yet be able to requite the obligations - which you have or may confer upon me by writing to one comparatively unknown to your self I received your favour of the 4th of the present month and am very much obliged for the same Your prompt attention to the enquiries I have pened you has emboldened ^{me} to trouble you with more

^{I have} quite made up my mind to go to Kansas and do by my presence there all that is in my feeble power to make it what it should be My wife will go on with me

I should like to know if there has been any arrangement with the lines of transportation to carry an extra amount of Baggage for the Kansas emigrants I think that such an arrangement ought to be made It will be a long time before goods can be received up there coming through as freight I think that those who go with



their families will need such things as beads
and beading pretty soon after they get up
there. If such needed things are to go by
the freight trains I should like to know
how goods should be directed in order to
come through safe and as speedily as may
be should they be directed to Kansas City
or Lawrence I can afford to pay pretty well to
have an extra amount of baggage go on the
same train with me. Will it be necessary
to convert our funds to specie in order to
buy such things as we shall need after-
getting there. I should like to join your
company and go when you do as there is
no else as I know of going from here.
I should take it as a great favour if you
will when the intelligence of the Missouri's
opening to navigation shall reach you and
the day fixed to go forward if you will let
me know in time to join you at Provo.

Will it be necessary to join any
Association in order to avail myself of the
reduced price of the fare if you will attend
to this matter I will be very much obliged.

I am yours Truly

To J. J. Goodnow

Ed. C. Burdick

Isaac Goodnow correspondence

Mouvy, M. I.

Greenville N. B. Sep 24/68

Mr. J. J. Goodnow -

Dear Sir, - Mrs
Mouvy receives the communication
from you and Mrs Deacons might
begin last, - why it was so long in
getting here we do not know.

While Mrs Mouvy was at
Southside I thought the matter
of going to Kansas all over, and
anticipating a new plan of operation
and when she returned we talked
the matter over and it seemed
to strike her very favorable. Our
plan is instead of going to K. to
go to school. This I expect will
surprise you very much - but taking
all things into account we think it
the best course to pursue. I can
raise the money that I spoke to

Isaac Goodnow correspondence

to you about when I was at G.
But I feel that the same for
such an enterprise is quite to smoo,
and have thought so all the time.

The suggestion, that came in your
note ~~was~~ about money, would confer
upon me great convenience, if I were
going and, could not raise my means.
For your liberality I feel myself,
brought under great obligations &
would express my sincere thanks.

Mrs M & myself, think of
starting to school this spring and,
continuing one year to begin with,
and then go to teaching for a while
and continue as the circumstances
seem to justify. I feel very much
the need of some education and,
I do not know of any better way
to obtain it, than to make it
now. We feel as though we could
do but very little in stand with

our present attainments, but to
settle down on a farm if we should
be fortunate enough to get one.

I feel as though I desired to
engage in some cause that would
purpose me for something so I
could do some good, than I could
in the capacity of a farmer. I
cannot do it without some education
- hence it seems wisdom to take
measures to secure it. Moreover
I feel that to discharge the duties
and responsibilities of life to their
acceptance the head & heart must be
cultivated. In view of the above consid-
-erations, and others which I cannot
name in this letter, we have come to
the aforementioned decision. Mrs M.
Sends her best regards, to you &
yours. We should be pleased to hear
from you.

Sincerely Yours
M. J. Mowry

Isaac Goodnow correspondence

Providence July 23 1855

Mr. S. T. Goodnow

Dear Sir

With this

I hand you a copy of resolutions passed at the meeting of our P. M. Conv. held in the small meeting of Methuen St. M. E. Church, when you was present a part of the time, but left before the resolutions were introduced. I should have handed them to you before this, but a press of business has caused me to neglect them.

Allow me in presenting them, to express to you individually my hearty approval of them. Our long and intimate connection, although in different spheres of labor, makes

Isaac Goodnow correspondence

we feel your removal from
the Institution perhaps more
sensibly than almost any other
teacher. Our intercourse has
been too pleasant, not to feel
the change without regret, & I
can but hope your future
field of labor will be as
useful if not as pleasant to
yourself.

Respectfully Yours
Dutton Bennett