

## Harry Percival Adams Smith to Hugh

This is a letter written by Harry Percival Adams Smith, Lecompton, Kansas Territory, to Hugh \_\_\_\_\_. Smith tells about the difficulties and unrest at Fort Scott, Kansas Territory. He describes Kansas as a "beautiful country in the summer and a great agricultural country" and "it will compare favorable with any land in the world." He writes about settlers and their reliance on money from aid societies rather than by working. Smith was born in Franconia, New Hampshire in 1820. He was an attorney and was admitted to the bar in Maine. After being admitted to the bar, he migrated to the west coast to practice law. In the early 1850s, Smith won election to California's state assembly. In 1855, he traveled to Kansas where he served as U. S. Marshall at Fort Scott, Kansas Territory. The territorial governor appointed Smith and three others to organize Arapahoe County. In November, 1858 the four men proceeded to lay out a town site on both banks of Cherry Creek. The frontier settlement proposed by Smith and others was called Denver, and it became part of Colorado Territory. Not long after Denver was founded, Smith and fellow attorney Samuel McClean went to the northern mines. In 1870, Smith died in Helena, Montana.

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Secorpton June 23<sup>d</sup> 1858

My Dear Hugh-

After all this time I at length  
have time to write you a hasty line - Since  
I came here I have acted as U.S. Marshall at  
Fort Scott the chief of the difficulties - Have headed  
Dragoons & swept the country - Have been besieged &  
couldn't move an inch - Have been amongst more  
bullets than are pleasant - have been shot at on  
seven different occasions - one was under fire  
from over 50 miles for about 15 minutes - One had  
three men take us over a fence & attack us  
cutting up the dirt under my feet and in fact  
they nearly "gave me fire" but at present "order  
regain in Warsaw" and for a few weeks we are  
at peace and I have retired to this place to rest  
not on my "lawrence" for we did not get any, but on a  
good bed which I have not seen for some time.

If the wise men at Washington pass any appropri-  
ation for Kansas I shall have the Public Buildings  
to put up which will be not a bad thing but if they  
do not I don't know how it will be - but think I can



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get along any way here if things work right —

Now about Kansas — this is most emphatically a beautiful country in the summer and a great agricultural country — I have been all over this Eastern part of the Territory from Lawrence to Fort Scott and I think that it will compare favorably with any land in the world — I am told that the winters are very cold and raw and uncomfortable and can readily concern it may be so as the Plains are open and no shelter from timber can on them be obtained.

The country is well watered and this year has been very rainy and streams high and bottoms very muddy but now we have fine warm weather —

If ever the cursed Abolitionists here (not free State men) shall be hung or shot or quitted in any other way we could have a good state and a prosperous one but if not God knows what it will be unless a deal of things — Business here is very dull this year — Most of the settlers had not much money when they came and in the troubles have thought more of getting money from Aid Societies than by labor and now in the interregnum of political dividing find themselves short — There is money to be made here by getting a good surveying contract — the



larger the better - Culbourn will go out in July  
who his successor will be depends with me - But he  
~~want~~ could do ex cogent - Now if you say so I will go  
in for a job and you get what influence you can  
bring to bear on the new man & have a good pleasant  
career on the Prairie - There is money in it and  
will write looking up - If I can't get the Capital to  
build I couldn't go out but will find a man to  
take part with you - What do you say - It is well worth  
looking at - Write me all about matters at home  
I have said you or father once in a while and you  
had ought to have written me before - Now see that you  
~~do~~ Redoubted One to Storm Enemy Anderson  
Lord & Marion George - Tell them I am right side  
up but that the roar of a Sharps rifle ball in the  
air is the d - d'st thing out and with twenty  
or thirty falling round you at once it sounds more  
like your head was in a Harvets nest and all  
buzzing at once. Work for Democracy - they have  
disgusted me with Republicanism here more than  
ever before - I did think them fools - I now think  
them villains - and even than villains - One of the  
acts of Montgomery was to oblige the wife and daughter  
of one of his victims to strip naked and walk back  
and forth before all his men - I could fill ten



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shut with accounts of this durbly but it must pay  
I have done with them for the present - God bless  
you old fellow, sit down and write me a long  
letter - I begin this with copying in - See the  
consequences below -

Yours H.P.A. Smith

H.P.A. SMITH

KANSAS  
LECOMP TON



## Harry Percival Adams Smith to Hugh

Lecompton June 22d 1858

My Dear Hugh

After all this time I at length have time to write you a hasty line. Since I came here I have acted as U.S. Marshall at Fort Scott, the center of the difficulties - Have headed Dragoons & swept the country - Have been besieged & couldn't move an inch - Have been amongst more bullets than are pleasant - Have been shot at on several different occasions - Once was under fire from over 50 men for about 15 minutes - Once had three men take "rests" over a fence & whack at me cutting up the dirt under my feet and in fact they nearly "gave me fits" but at present "Order reigns in Warsaw" and for a few weeks we are at peace and I have retired to this place to rest - not on my "laurels" for we didn't get any, but on a good bed which I have not seen for some time.

If the wise men at Washington pass any appropriation for Kansas I shall have the Public Buildings to put up which will be not a bad thing, but if they do not I don't know how it will be - but think I can get along anyway here if things work right.

Now about Kansas - This is most emphatically a beautiful country in the summer and a great agricultural country - I have been all over this Eastern part of the Territory from Leavenworth to Fort Scott, and I think that it will compare favorably with any land in the world - I am told that the winters are very cold and raw and uncomfortable and can readily conceive it may be so as the Prairies are open and no shelter from timber can on them be obtained.

The country is well watered and this year has been very rainy and streams high and waters very muddy but now we have fine warm weather.

If ever the cursed Abolitionists here (not Free State men) shall be hung or shot or quieted in any other way we could have a good state and a prosperous one but if not God knows what it will be unless a den of theirs. Business here is very dull this year. Most of the settlers had not much money when they came and in the troubles have thought more of getting money from Aid Societies than by labor, and now in the intrigues of political deviltry find themselves short. There is money to be made here by getting a good surveying contract - the longer the better. Calhoun will go out in July - who his successor will be ( ) saith not, but he won't come in again. Now if you say so I will go in for a job and you git what influence you can bring to bear on the new man & have a good pleasant cruise on the Prairie. There is money in it and well worth looking up. If I get the capital to build, I couldn't go out but will find a man to take part with you. What do you say - it is well worth looking at. Write me all about matters at home. I have sent you a letter once in a while and you had ought to have written me before. You see that you do. Remember me to Steven Anderson Lord & Manor &c, &c, &c.

Tell them I am right side up but that the noise of a Sharp's rifle ball in the air is the d-dst thing out, and with twenty or thirty flying round you at once it sounds more like your head was in a Hornets nest and all buzzing at once.

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Work for Democracy – they have disgusted me with Republicanism here more than ever before – I did think them fools- I know think them villains – and worse than villains – One of the Acts of Montgomery was to oblige the wife and daughters of one of his victims to strip naked and walk back and forth before all his men – I could fill ten sheets with accounts of this Deviltry but it ( ) ( ). I have done with them for the present – God bless you old fellow. Sit down and write me a long letter- I began this with copying ink – see the consequences below

Yours

H.P.A. Smith