

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.

Date: June 22, 1858

KSHS Identifier: DaRT ID: 309660

Item Identifier: 309660

www.kansasmemory.org/item/309660

KANSAS HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Harry Percival Adams Smith to Hugh

Decompson June 22 1858 After all this time I at lugth have time to write you a hasty line - Since I cam here I have actice as W.S. marshall at Fire Sout the enter of the difrenties - Hour headed Drigons & surfer the country - Have brise lister ed & couldn't mere ein wich - How bein amongst more bullets thou can pleasent - how been shot at on seven diferent occasions - true was under fire from our 50 mich for about 15 minutes - Once had there men take vists over a final & whack at me cutting up the dirt under my feet and in fuch they mady "give me fels" but at present "wiles my as in Warsand" and for a few wites we can at prace and I have retired to this place to vert not on my lawrate for we did in get any, but on a good but which I have not seen for some time. If the wise men at thus hing low pass any approprie ation for Russes I shall have the Portie Buddings to put up which will be not a bud thing but if they do not I don't know how it will be - but thuch I seem



Harry Percival Adams Smith to Hugh

get along any way here if things with night Alow about Kinsus - this is much emphatically ec beautifule country in the summer and a quest agricultured country - I have been all our this Eastern part of the Tourtony from Lerrente to Fort Secter and I think that it will compare Juwardly with any land in the wild - I am told that the writers we very cold and run and uncomfortable and can needly conscient it may be so as the Prairie an open and no sheller from timber can on them be ottered. The country is well naturel and this your has bun very veiny and streams high and lettors very muddy but now we have fine were wrather -If our the enrel abolitionists here misting State mun) shall be hong or shot or queted in any other very we could have a good state and a prosperious our but if not food knows what it will be unless er den of theirs - Business here is very dull this gran - must of the setters had not much money when they came and in the troubles have thought more of getting money from aid Souties than by later and now in the interregueur of political diviltry find thurselves short There is morning to be much her by getting a good surveying contract - the



Harry Percival Adams Smith to Hugh

larger the better - bulhown will go out in July who his successor will be disposent swith not - but he unit come in egenier - how if you say so I will go in for word and you get what in fluid you cain Army to been one the rece main & have a good pleasait curio ou the Pression there is money in it wind will write booking up . If I could get the Corpeted to build I couldn't go out but will find a more to take put with your - What do goo suy it is well with · looking at with this me all about matters at finde I have soit gon a paper one in a while and you had on fit to how within me lifere how see that you down Theoverted And to Storm Energy anderson Livel & Mureon gospossi . The There I am ught side up but that the sivise of see Thurses wifter bull in the air is the d - dist throng out aint with truly or thirty offing would you ar once it sounds more like your head were in a Hirrits west and all busing at our. Work for De morre ey - they have disquested me with Republicanon here more than ever before - I dice think them fools - I now think them villains - and even than villais - Our of the acts of montgowery was to oblige the wife and daughter of one of his withing to strip nutred and walk buch and firth before all his men I could file ten



Harry Percival Adams Smith to Hugh

that with accounts of their Dueltry lus it went pury I have done with them for the pursuit - God bless for old fellow, set down and write me a long letter - I begun this with copying inte - See the consignment below your Ho. P. A Fanita The at the line with an inthe more inin to mitel you a wasty line stant I come him I have in his as the Mars hale at to bear it the sewher if the virtualium flue function Brigaries surfer the veger lange dans for hadingreck & ordant him on weeken thein der amongst mou butter there was placed in fine but deep fine ut for man defer of transact tree was unter fine poor in a let mere for when to to main his the had the miles later well one a fine frederick we me cilling up the dear and and feet and find they mindy you now file" but at propert "water vient in then and and for in full makes we war les pirice and I have whand to this plan to water not in my lunearle for me die in get any but in a sport but which I have not seen for some lines, If the min mer we then howing humany top while to hart up which will be just a least their fat if they to not if deat to how it will her that think I wan

KAN HISTO SOC

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.



Harry Percival Adams Smith to Hugh

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