

Samuel Tappan to Ellen Douglas Denison Goodnow

Samuel Tappan wrote from Barker's Mission on the Shawnee Reserve in present-day Johnson County, Kansas Territory, to Ellen Goodnow, Isaac Goodnow's wife, near Manhattan. Tappan updated Ellen on the status of some misplaced luggage, providing a good description of local shipping and travel procedures. He praised the land of Kansas, "a glorious country to try 'men's soles' (sic)". Tappan also described the recent scuffle between Governor Reeder and Benjamin Stringfellow, an incident which embodied the tension between anti and proslavery supporters.

Creator: Tappan, S. F. (Samuel Forster), d. 1913

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Barker's Mission Shawnee Reserve June 29th 1855.

Mrs Goodnow

Dear Friend

Yesterday and today I called at the different stores in Kansas where baggage is usually stored, that is directed to Kansas Territory. But could learn nothing of your boxes. They had not arrived.

Mrs Gillepatrick and family left Kansas city this morning for Lawrence in a stage hack hired for the occasion. If desirable the hack will take them on to their future home in Brownfield. I should have rode up to Lawrence with them if I could have got our baggage off in time. But we must make up our mind to wait a long time for Messourians if we wait at all, for they are never in a hurry. About noon my man made his appearance and the baggage was loaded into his wagon and he left for Lawrence. Your two trunks weighed

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over two hundred pounds. You will find it marked on the card, pay accordingly, so much per lb. Our baggage was all weighed before starting. If the trunks are at Lawrence on my arrival, I shall take the first opportunity to forward them to you. I walked from Kansas to this place, and if no team overtakes me I shall foot it to Lawrence. This is a glorious Country to try "new soles". Mine have been tried and not found wanting yet. I presume that you have found Kansas a hard road to travel. But my belief is that you are one of those that are not easily discouraged. We must travel over rough and thorny roads a portion of our life as well as the smooth and pleasant. Necessity makes true pleasure.

Governor Reeder was badly treated by Genl. Thompson a few evenings since. Knocked down and trampled upon. The Governor would have killed the dog, if he had not been prevented by some friends who were present.

Excuse me for intruding upon your time and pains. in the pursuit of these scratches, and remember me to your husband and friends.

I remain yours
Sam Tappan

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P.S. We are now enjoying "a right smart sprinkling of rain." And this is my home until dry weather. The only ~~thing~~ ^{thing} that gives me any uneasiness is the position in which my sister is placed. And I am in hopes to receive a letter from her saying that she is ready to come to Kansas. If she writes that she wants to come I shall go out after her. And together we will visit your cabin in Boston if a good and of course it will be. While she is in Kansas, I shall try to make her visit pleasant.

In the hope that you will not forget to write a letter about Kansas &c. for publication in one of our Kansas Papers I subscribe myself your

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