

William E. Goodnow to Harriet Goodnow

William Goodnow, recently arrived in Shannon, Kansas Territory, wrote to his wife, Harriet, who had remained in New England. Goodnow related his experiences traveling from Westport, Missouri, where he received quality hospitality from a slaveholder, to Lawrence, and finally to Shannon, where he met his brother, Isaac, and sister-in-law. Goodnow also mentioned his recent subscription to the Herald of Freedom newspaper, which would be sent to her; he implored her to save all of them, as he wished them preserved. He added that they expected a rush of emigrants in the following spring.

Creator: Goodnow, William Eaton, 1807-1876

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Shannon, K.T. Nov. 22, 55

My Dear Wife - My last letter was dated & mailed at Kansas City I believe, & I will now say that I left there on Tuesday the 6th inst. on foot having obtained an ox team to take the women, children & baggage - we put up at a slaveholder, in Westport, who said nineteenth of the people of Kansas were sick & the other tenth were dead, & the inhabitants were leaving the Territory as fast as they could - this news did not trouble me, as I could need it all. Well, he had good possessions of buildings, lands, stock & slaves, & we were treated very well for over money & offered good liquor into the bargain, as this is one of the customs in high fashion in Missouri. We left Westport Wednesday morning in good spirits, having a charming day, as was also, Monday & Tuesday - we travelled in the Indian Territory some 17 miles & over women lodged in an Indian Cabin & the men in the wagon & on the ground - I lay on the ground in the open air by a good fire, & found better than some poor mounts that I have seen on the way, to whose necessities I have administered my wife. Thursday brat as all safely to Lawrence this was a splendid day the sun almost burning my left ear. On Friday I got a conveyance of a horse team for over & set them along to their destination, & remaining in Lawrence to purchase some

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to forward over ~~trunks~~ & a by another team. We had fine weather till Thursday when it rained all day & I laid by & did not travel. On Friday I rode in a hard rain & hail storm & got well covered with ice, but I kept quite dry however & got into a comfortable harbor having travelled 24 miles & seeing two Indian houses & a mill in the distance. On Saturday I arrived at Brother Isaac's who I found rather slim & Ellen quite well for her. Br. Porterson, & the other families stood the journey quite well considering all things. Lucinda has some cough & I have made her some cough syrup which I presume will cure her in due time. I found a letter from you at the Lawrence P.O. which was sent by you in August & I found one here with one from Mr. Hathaway which brother J. took care of when I was absent. I found my Advertisers arrived regularly at the Lawrence P.O. & believe I have now received all the letters which you have heretofore sent me. I enclose a note to Br. Goodwin which you will please hand him; also, a line to Robert Hayes. I have received a few lines from Whisley & he will probably receive an answer by the mail that takes this. I also send some Kansas papers to R. Evans, J. H. Merrill & Whisley & Jamie & Denison. Jacob Broadbent wished to take the Herald of Freedom six months & I have ordered it sent & paid \$1.00 for it & you may say to him to pay you the same. I suppose he will receive a receipt for the same from the pub. I wish you to save all the Herald of Freedom papers as I wish them preserved. There is a good number of emigrants expected here next spring.

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all my letters & papers hereafter I wish directed to "Shannon, Mill Cat Creek, K.T." as we are to have a mail the first of January to come once a week regularly. We shall soon have a weekly mail I hope, & shall then feel more like enjoying the news as it comes new. -

Monday 26 - this is a charming day - & I have just time to say that I attended quarterly meeting yesterday & assisted at the funeral of a young wife - I had a good meeting & I now feel very well indeed - I have not time to say much more, as I expect a man to take this to the Post Office soon. I shall have my life Insurance premiums paid by a friend at Foxburg who has purchased some of my city shares. - More soon. -

Yours as ever

W.E.G.