

John Brown to Orson Day

In mid-December 1855, John Brown wrote to Orson Day (a brother in law) of White Hall, New York, from Browns Station, Kansas Territory, regarding the "Kansas War" (Wakarusa War) from which he had "just returned." The territory was, according to Brown, "now entirely in the power of the Free State men," and he continued to "believe the Missourians will give up all further hope of making Kansas a Slave State."

Creator: Brown, John, 1800-1859

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John Brown to Orson Day

Brown's Station, Kansas Territory, 14th Decem 1855

Orson Day Esqr
White Hall
N. I. } Dear Sir

I have just returned from the Kansas war (about which you have no doubt learned by the News papers.) I find your Letter of the 19th Nov. As I intend to send you shortly a paper published here giving you a more full account of the invasion than I can consistently afford the time to give, I will only say at this time that the Territory is now entirely in the power of the ~~free state men~~ ^{pro-slavery men}; notwithstanding this result has been secured by means of some bravery, & tact; with a good deal of trickery on the One side; & of cowardice, folly, & drunkenness on the other yet so it is; & I believe the Missourians will give up all further hope of making Kansas a Slave State. Tomorrow the people of Kansas will decide whether to adopt or to reject the free Constitution submitted to them; & I have no doubt of its adoption. Indeed I consider it no longer a question whether this is to be a free or a slave State. As I wrote you a few days since we have secured a good claim for you & shall be preparing to build on it for ^{you} as fast as we can. As we have access to no Saw Mill as yet for any lumber I think you & Mrs Day had better leave the planning of a House to Mr Thompson & myself; but still if you send us a plan in season we will conform to it so far as circumstances will allow of it. Could you be on the
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ground & understand all the circumstances in connection you would probably decide to do in many respects different from what you would if at White Hall. I would be glad to get you to buy a Draft on New York at some good Bank in your vicinity for \$146, 38 One Hundred & Forty Six Dollars & Thirty Eight Cents payable to the order of J W Carter Esqr; & send it to him in a letter directed J W Carter Esqr Agent Mass, Arms Co, Chicago, Ills, Mass; asking him to acknowledge the receipt as for me; & I will make the same all right with you. I want to remit him that amount in payment for five arms sent me by him; & without which we might have been placed in very awkward circumstances. I am more & more pleased with this country; & with the prospects of my friends here; & think I may recommend it to you in good faith. Please write me on receipt of this whether you can accommodate me about the Draft for Mr Carter or not; so that I may know as soon as may be. Land Warrants will be as good as Gold in payment for Land as soon as the Lands are in readiness for market; & you will be safe in improving on a Claim while you keep a Warrant ready to pay for it with. The health of my family out here is improving. The most of ^{them} are in fine health. In great haste
Your friend
John Brown.