

## Joseph Harrington Trego to Alice Trego

Joseph Trego wrote from Sugar Mound, Kansas Territory, to his wife, Alice, at their family's home in Illinois. Trego, tired of "keeping bach" (living a bachelor's lifestyle), he occupied himself with the milling business, which was sawing 4000 ft of lumber each day. A member of the town company in Mound City, he had also recently traveled to gain support for the construction of some new roads in the area; he was also interested in developing a school. At the end of the letter, Trego wrote personal notes to each of his three daughters.

Creator: Trego, Joseph H. (Joseph Harrington), 1823-1905

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Joseph Harrington Trego to Alice Trego

Jan. 18, 1858

Sugar Mound, Jan 18<sup>th</sup> 1858

My Dear! wife

Last Saturday was my day to write you but I was prevented from getting a letter in the mail that day, by our work which was going on furiously all day, and then I was so tired of night that I went to rest immediately after supper and, besides, last week was my week to get the mails. This week and next I will be out and can have time, of evenings, to read some before supper and when not too tired can put in an hour or two after tea. Oh dear! how tired I am of keeping 'back' Nothing, but the interest I feel in seeing the work going on, enables me to stand it now. Today I have been riding all day, partly on business connected with the Mill and partly to get signers to three road petitions, for roads branching off from Mound City.

The weather is delightful, 55° to-day, warm sun, I enjoyed the ride very much untill after noon when I began to tire of it. We don't perform much hard labor, it is more care and anxiety than of physical labor, we hire most of that done. We can saw 4000 ft of lumber a day. We have not worked any after night yet. If we were only living together here now I should like the business very well. I think it will be much pleasanter than either riding around thro' hot sun or cold winds, rough roads and muddy roads, rainy days and dark nights to peddle pills, or to raise crops and have to watch them so much to keep them from



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being destroyed and then to scarcely get enough for them to pay expenses. It will be pleasant too to be near enough to places of public gathering to go without riding several miles in the dark, over a rough or muddy road, and to call on the neighbors too of an afternoon, we have always been such great hands at that. I took from the office today two letters from you one dated Dec 31, the other Jan 6<sup>th</sup>. I do hope the children will keep well I do so want to find you all well when I return home. I make wonderful calculations about that even. Maria had better keep in the notion of coming here. There is no question about the school if she wants to teach. There is a school house here but no school this winter. I have not heard of any one who could be had to teach a school, who is capable. Ed expressed himself as being very well pleased that Maria purposed coming here, so that his boys could go to school. That was on our way out, last fall. I expected to receive those pictures to-day but instead I found that they would not be forthcoming. By the time wonder if Kate will have any thing to say when I get home, I guess she will me a heap about everything and Eleanor too will have to help some but little Helen won't know Father and may be get behind the stove or under the table so that the way you will do Helen? Well, I'll see how you do in a few more weeks. Do you think, Kate and Eleanor, that you would be scared to hear the big owls making such a noise as they do in the woods every night, sometimes right over our house? They stay in the old hollow trees all day and then, hoo hoo around all night. Next summer, when we come here to live, you can hear them most every night, won't it make you jump into bed and cover up quick or kiker? Now my dear wife you must excuse me for another week for my back aches and, if I aint sleepy now, I will be in the morning at getting up time - Your loving Husband  
Till Louis that I don't expect to carry a carpet bag when I come home but will probably ride a horse, that will about fill his eyes so full that he can't see anything else for awhile