

Franklin B. Sanborn to Thomas W. Higginson

Franklin B. Sanborn, an ardent supporter of abolitionist John Brown, writes this letter in Boston to one of his associates, Reverend Thomas W. Higginson, an agent of the Massachusetts Kansas Aid Committee in Worcester, Massachusetts. Sanborn writes that John Brown, who was poised on the northern border of Kansas Territory, is ready to bring supplies in to relieve the free state settlers. Brown has become discouraged about the free state cause "in consequence of persons not fulfilling his expectations." Sanborn wonders if Higginson or the Worcester Committee could do something to assist Brown, especially with his financial difficulties. If the committee did not have the funds, Sanborn suggests that Higginson should seek funds from his friends and associates. In closing, Sanborn offers his support for a disunion convention.

Creator: Sanborn, F. B. (Franklin Benjamin), 1831-1917

Date: August 28, 1857

Callnumber: Thomas W. Higginson Coll. #380 Box 1 Folder 6

KSHS Identifier: DaRT ID: 90774

Item Identifier: 90774

www.kansasmemory.org/item/90774

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Sanborn, F.B.
H-6-1

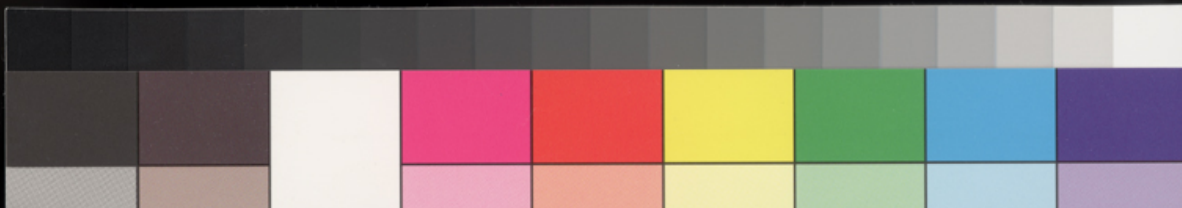
KANSAS HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

Boston Aug 28th 1857 41416.

My dear Friend:

It is some months since our Kansas correspondence ceased, and I now reopen it in behalf of Capt. Brown, who as you perhaps know is now on the borders of Kansas with a quantity of supplies for future service there. He has met with much discouragement since he left New England and New York in consequence of persons not fulfilling his expectations, sickness &c. and is now (or was) on the 14th at Labor with little money on hand. I wish I could send you his letter to show you how true he is as to all his trials, but you know him well enough to believe anything good of him.

Now I am told there is a large sum of money in the hands of your County Committee, of which Mr. Chapin is Chairman - some \$3000. There seems no reason why so much should be kept on hand idle, when it



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is needed so much in various ways. Mr Whitman, who is coming to Worcester next Monday, will endeavor to get some of the appropriated to the use of Gen. Lane's organization, and he will also urge that some be forwarded to Capt Brown. Cannot you do something to stimulate your Committee to this? \$1000 or even \$500, would be of great service to the Captain, and would relieve him from many of his embarrassments. It looks very much as if his company would be much needed in Kansas; at any rate, he is personally needed there, and ought to go in. If no money can be got from your Committee, (which will be the case, unless they pay over better than they answer letters), can you not do something in your city and among your friends? Please take this seriously to heart, as the concern of a brave man in present embarrassment. J. B. address is "Helen Hawkins, Care of Jones Jones, Tober, Iowa". The officials in Kansas have some



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Knowledge of his plans, Mr Whit-
man affirms.

Please add my name to your call
for a Decemr Convention.

I should be glad to hear from you
at Concord, where I shall begin my
new school on Wednesday next.

Yours Ever
F. B. Sanborn

J. W. Higginson
Concord.