

Lawrence Kansas, May 12th

Dear Mother,

I suppose you will be very much surprised to receive a letter from your absent son dated from Lawrence but wonders will never cease the day and I begin to believe it myself. Until last week I never thought of coming to Kansas this spring, if ever. But the Appleton Free Press was discontinued and the whole establishment sent to this place. I was thrown out of employment and thought the best thing I could do would be to go farther West. We had quite a company with us from Appleton.

Henry Blood, Truman Blood, Duncan Johnston, George Johnston, A young man by the name of Brown and your step-son Wm. J. F. Johnston and the Col will come as soon as they can sell their places. Uncle Henry Finch says he shall come soon. Kansas is the finest country I ever saw without any exceptions. Wisconsin can't hold a candle to it. Such splendid

Quinn cannot be found in any other
place in the world. This is the place for father
to come and get him a farm. Quinn shall go
back to Wisconsin to live. We started from Appa-
ton on Tuesday morning May fifth and reached
Ripon the first night, (about 35 miles) We then
started the next morning by the Cars for Milwaukee
got there about 11 O'clock. Went and found Charley
Webb. He is working at his trade, went from there to
the Depot where we saw Uncle Joshua, Did not
see Ann or J. C. F.'s wife. They were well.

Took the Cars at 3 O'clock for Chicago, arrived
there before dark, and at 11 started for St Louis.
Arrived at St Louis Thursday morning and
stopped there until 8 O'clock Friday morning
when we took the Cars for Jefferson City. arrived
there about 2 O'clock P.M. As we were going to stay
until the night train we thought we would visit
the Capitol of Missouri. The Capitol Building is
rather nice but J. City is the meanest looking
place on the whole route. We left at dark
and took the steamer for W. J. andott. K. J.
Stopped at different places on the Missouri
River. Kansas City is a nice place

for one so new. We arrived at Pryanditt
Sunday afternoon. It is a very pretty place
just seven or eight weeks old and contains 3 or 4
hundred inhabitants. It has 3 Hotels
and they are crowded constantly. We took
the stage Monday morning for Lawrence 40
miles and found the most splendid view
on the route that ever lay out doors.

We arrived at Lawrence about 5 o'clock P.M.
After tea we went up to the fort built by the
Three States men at the time the Border
Ruffians sacked Lawrence. It is on a small
hill south of the town. The place where the
Hotel was burnt is but a few rods from where
I am sitting. The Missourians numbered 700
and the man that kept the house gave them
a free dinner. About 4 hours after they
had got through dinner they marched down
opposite the Hotel and planting their Cannons
told the man to take out his furniture if he
wanted to save it. He answered that
he brought it there to use and if they
destroyed the house it might go with it.

They then commenced firing and in
a short time nothing but the foundation
was left. Clark Southmayd stood a few
feet from the gun when they first fired.
I found James Signor and Clark's head.

Uncle Joshua had heard nothing from Brady
and Mollie. He thinks they have gone to
California. You can direct your letters to
Lawrence A. J. until you receive another
letter. If Father comes west. I shall want
to know it before he starts. If you dont all
come this fall I shall come East. but if you
do come I shall want you to bring ~~her~~ with
you. I will arrange it all with her to come
with you if you come. and then I will meet
you in Chicago or St Louis. My advice to
Father is to come without fail and bring
you all when he comes. I know you will
like the country. You cant help it possibly -

Give my love to all the friends - Love to Father
Bill, Earl, + Frank. and tell them to write

Much love from your affectionate Son
W. J. Pierce