

From William Clarke Quantrill to William W. Scott

[page 1]

Direct to Olathe

Johnson Co[.]

K.T. Tuscarora Lake

Jan. 22 [*text stricken through*] 1858

Friend William,

I have come to the conclusion to write to you again. You wrote to me last summer & I answered it shortly afterward; but, not having recieved one afterwards, I came to the conclusion that you had never received; for at that time letters frequently were mislaid & lost.

But when one does sit down to write here, he hardly knows what to say; for situated as we are (that is keeping Back,) & away from any town we are at more of a loss for news &c. than you gentlemen in the city there.

I have left Col[.] Torreys & now live with the rest of the Dover boys here. George Hildt is in Dover ere this & if you see him tell him we are all well & that the claim North of mine was jumped last Monday by a young fellow from Ind.

About the last election here is this[:] 10,126 votes against the Lecompton swindle & 6000 for it, of which 3000

[page 2]

if not more were illegal. I saw the Ohio Democrat here yesterday which had somewhat I call D\_\_n lies about Kansas & I would like to tell the editor so to his face. He said Jim Lane, (as good a man as we have here) was fighting with U.S. Troops at Ft[.] Scott, he was there but did no fighting; his presence is enough to frighten 100 Missourians. The settlers shot two men & wounded 4 or 5 but in self defense, it is a pity they had not shot every Missourian that was there.

The democrats here are the worst men we have for they are all rascals, for no one can be a democrat here without being one; but the day of their death is fast approaching & they will be like the jews[,] be scattered to the four winds of the earth & a guilty look which will always betray them.

If you are in the printing office yet tell the editor if he wants any subscribers in Kansas he must do a little better than he has done, for the boys here will hardly use it when they go back of the house.

If you know where George Scott is tell him to write to me or if he wants to get a farm of nothing to come here as soon as he can; for these are good chances here now. tell him I am safe for 160 acres

[page 3]

of land & that I will insure the same to him if he comes here in 8 or 10 weeks, & you too Billy[.] \$40 will Bring him here[.] yes[.] 30 if he is economical & I will insure any one \$1,50 a day if he wan[t]s to work, & Friend William if you want land[.] here is the only place to get it cheaply & you had better come if you want any.

Tell George if he wants to come, to come by railroad to Jefferson City, Mo. & then shoulder his carpet sack & foot it to Independence & from there to Little Santa Fe, & then to Olathe[.] Johnson County K.T.[.] which is six day walk. if you see any Boys around dover who want to come tell them what I have [*text stricken through*] written[.]

We have the finest weather imaginable[.] well to tell you the truth the grass has been growing on the prairie all winter or during the [*text stricken through*] season we call winter & we have no rainy or wet weather either.

Last week I helped to kill a deer & since I have been here I have killed myself 2 antelope & one deer & about 25 Wild Turkeys & geese & before you see me in Ohio I will have killed buffalo for they are plenty about 100 miles west of us now & those who have killed them say it is fine sport[.] at least if I keep my health I will try it.

[page 4]

This is the place to hunt[.] there is more game to be seen in one day here than in a whole year there.

About the girls I cannot say as much as you could but this is certain[:] a man can have his choice for we have all kinds & colors here[.] Black[.] White & red[.] But to tell you which I like the best is a mixture of the two latter colors if properly brought up[.] for they are both rich and good looking & I think go ahead of your dover gals far enough. Em Walton would pass very well for a squaw if she was better looking but I think from present appearances John Diehl will squaw her about next fall or winter & that will bleach her a little probably.

When you write tell me all about the girls & especially yours & my fair one that used to be in years past, if she is around yet. You & the rest of the boys there must attend to the girls well while we are here in Kansas, & tell them we are all going to marry squaws & when they die we are coming to old Dover for our second wives so that they must not despair.

I must close. Now write soon[.] give me all the news[.]

my love to the boys & girls &  
oblige your obedient  
W.C. Quantrill