

From John Brown, Jr. to Orson Day

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Duplicate to

White Hall NY

John Brown Jr[.]

Jan[.] 23 1856

Brown's Station[,] Kansas Territory

Jan'y 23rd 1856

Orson Day Esqr.

Dear Sir: --

My Father is now writing to you in answer to a letter from yourself and Mrs[.] Day dated at White Hall Decr[.] 18th /55. He will direct his to Centerville Pa[.], and requests me to also write you at White Hall.

In answer to Mrs[.] Day's question "whether Mr. Thompson will settle there" (here) I will say he does intend to settle here and talks of moving his family to Kansas next Fall. He has chosen a prairie claim lying about 1/2 a mile from the one selected by Father for Mr. Day.

Bring no doors nor window sash--

About "Route to Kansas" -- You can come to St[.] Louis Mo. in the spring, either by Rail Rd. or by River from Pittsburgh Pa[.] At a good stage of water, you can come very comfortably and cheaply by Boat from Pitt. to St. Louis. There is by Ohio River a good deal of competition in the spring, if saving of time should not be a great object with you this would be one of the best ways to come.

From dear experience I would advise you not to take a Boat from St[.] Louis to Kansas[.] The Missouri River does not rise in season for early emigration; at a low stage of water, snags[,] sand bars, extortion and Cholera await those who take that route from St. Louis[.]

The price of passage from St[.] Louis to Kansas by stage, after the opening of Mo. River navigation is the same as by Boat, of course board would be an extra cost, but do not

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take a Boat from St[.] Louis unless there should be on your arriving there, a good stage of water in the Missouri River. Any baggage or freight you bring over and above free baggage I would mark Orson Day, of Walker & Chick, Kansas City Missouri, Via St. Louis care of B. Slater, No. 19 Levee.

On your arrival at St. Louis, I would recommend you to see Mr. Slater at 19 Levee. He is a faithful and true man, and will give you any needed information in regard to best places to make your purchases also, whether at the time the Mo. River is high or low. His is a good

forwarding House.

Purchase a cooking stove at St[.] Louis if you should not at Pitt. Last spring it would have been economy in me to have bought a first rate stove with its furniture at Pittsburgh. They are high here and were last spring in St. Louis.

If you come from St. Louis by Boat you will land at Kansas City[,] a small town on the Western border of Mo.--from thence by hack 4 miles south to Westport Mo.--thence by hack[,] which leaves Westport every Monday to Osawatomie in this Territory. At that place enquire for Rev[.] Saml[.] Adair[,] who lives 1 mile west of the village. Mr[.] Adair is a relative of ours[;] will receive you cordially. Our station is 10 miles west of Osawatomie. Should you come up from St[.] Louis by stage you will purchase through ticket to Westport Mo.

Right glad shall we be to see you and yours in this beautiful land, and to enjoy your society as neighbor. Shall do all in our power to render your home among us a pleasant one. My wife recd. p[e]r Father a beautiful dress pattern from you, and will be most happy to acknowledge the favor "in propria persone". -- I shall be pleased to answer by letter so far as am able, any questions you may think of. If I can get time I will write to Geo. B. Delamater enclosing a rough map to yourself of this region[.]

In haste, Truly Yours
John Brown Jr.