

From A.J. Huntoon to Lizzie P. Huntoon

[page 1]

Lawrence Douglass Co. Kansas Ter[ritory].

Johnson House

Jan. 27th 1861.

My Dear Wife;

I left home on Tuesday last for Lawrence. It took me all day to get to Topeka. The snow was so deep, I going afoot. There is yet no track between W[illia]msport & Topeka, & the snow lays very deep. We have had plenty of snow ever since Christmas. I lay one day at Topeka - Wednesday - for the reason that I was afraid to make the trip it was so cold. Thursday I came to Lawrence, by stage: it took us all day, & were under the necessity of stopping six time to warm. you may be a able to form some idea of the severity of the weather we have had for the past two weeks.

Teams on the road between Topeka & Atchison have had their cattle frozen to death. I find my situation yet open for me. much to my surprise when so many are anxiously waiting in hopes of getting something to do before the close of the session, which is just half through. Much excitement prevailed in the house of Representatives, one day this week, resulting from an effort to elect Daniel Adams of Waubensee Co. to a clerkship in the place of one who resigned for want of ability to perform his duty. I will by & send you a paper containing a report of the proceeding if one can be procured. (More is to come of it)

[page 2]

Adams is of a restless nervous temperament, of whom [*text stricken through*] you know more than myself. Any opposition he takes very much at heart. The opposition he received created much sympathy in his favor, & he was elected by a large majority. Legislative Business progresses slowly. A Bill restoring a six mile strip on the south of our county has passed the council, & is pending in the house. Winchel is doing his best against it. But it is the general opinion that it will pass. I will send you some papers containing condensed reports of the proceedings of the two houses.

Such a lobby influence as is brought to bear. it would be impossible to find anywhere except in Lawrence. Your letter dated at Springfield Mass. I reed, and am anxious for another. I feel very thankful that you made the journey in so good time, & are well. Lizzie, you do not know how I want to see [*text stricken through*] you, & my dear little Prentice. I can hardly realize that several months are to pass before I am to see you both.

Mr. Goodell received word from George after he arrived in Springfield Vt. safe, & well. I have but little accommodations at my boarding place for writing, as yet, for every nook & room is full & overrun.

The [MS. illegible] Swindle is receiving the attention of the house, as you will see by the reports. I will try to send the proceedings in full on its progress when printed. It creates a good deal feeling, and is the occasion of sharp cutting speeches. (with some personalities)

[page 3]

Applications for divorce are numberless, but are being more closely examined before action, than by previous Kas. Legislatures. Many of the grounds for applications are very frivolous indeed, & children with similar notions in their heads would deserve flogging. I attended on service at the methodist church to-day, but the preaching was no better than we have at home.

Most are looking for news of our admission daily, but I believe we will not get to be a state this session.

When I left home we were looking for Brownly to come in on any day. I hope it will not be so cold that it will get frozen, for I would hate to loose her calf very much. The morning I was in Topeka, Freds dog killed a wolf, a large, grey, wolf, all of twice as big as any of those that I killed. It made Fred feel very proud of Jack. At the fall of our deep snow, Joel had one of his last spring calves, covered under, & could not find it. also three of his shoats - as large as my largest - froze. Hens, Pigs & calves - most every one lost more or less of. I will not write much more to-day for you will see that news are scarce.

Monday morn. 28th

We have every appearance of more snow this morning. The trials of Kansas seem to come one on another[.] Seems as though we were getting about as much as we were able to endure. They come in such rapid succession. It would do me much good to sit by you, & have a little talk this morning. And that dear boy how I would like to see him.

[page 4]

But if you will write often I can content myself to wait. You need not be afraid of writing to many particulars.

With many kisses for yourself & our baby.

I Am Affectionately Yours[.]

A.J. Huntoon

P.S. Direct to Topeka. A.J.H.