

From Samuel Lyle Adair to Florella Brown Adair

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Osawatomie[,] Kan.

March, 26th, 1[8]/60

Dear Wife,

Yours of the 11 & 16-17 inst. came last night. I was truly glad to get it. The last one one before it, stated that Charles had not come on at the time he was expected, & that he was unwell when last heard from, which made me fear that he was sick.

But it seems that something else must have delayed him. Sorry to hear that Ada was so sick. But as you think she was much better when you finished your letter, I will hope she is well, & that you are now all among my relatives enjoying their greetings & society. I was a good deal interested in the account you gave of persons & interviews, & things in Oberlin. At first it seemed such a pity we could not have had that \$200 raised in Oberlin to help the poor here, & help our church at the same time. But the Lord knows what is best.

I am now in great straits for money to pay hands

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& keep the work a going on. I have [MS. illegible] to buy meal at \$1 per bush to give our cows & oxen to keep them up until grass comes. I have borrowed some & will have to borrow from \$50 to \$100 more before my next Dft. can get here--i.e. if I can borrow it here. This I find very hard to do here, because no one scarcely has any money.

We need \$100 now badly to get the lath & do the plastering. Carpenters are at work on the floor -- will soon be urgent to have the plastering done so that they can finish the inside work. The destitution, from accounts, rather increases. A number of teams that went to Wyandotte last week returned empty.

Friday Afternoon. March 29.

I shall look for a letter from you or Charles tonight. I have been very busy this week. We have put out about 6 quarts of onion sets, & sowed some seed, some beets &c. This morning we had a very fine rain. The ground was very dry before; but the rain last night & this morning has put the ground in good condition, & makes the wheat & grass show green.

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I hope, if it does not turn cold again, we shall be able to get along without having to buy much more meal for the cows. They have cost me a good deal of money to help them through, & they are quite poor. The young cattle look well--never better here in the spring. All will soon, however, do well probably, if we now have warm weather.

The school in town closed this week. On Wednesday Eve there was an exhibition. Emma took part in a dialogue with Mary Chestnut. I did not attend. Emma has spent most of

the week in preparing for it & in visiting. She went home with Fanny Brown to Mr. [Crewes?] after the exhibition was over, & I have not seen her since.

I have recd. a line from H.C. Harris, requesting me to forward any letters that might come here for them. They had got on their way as far as Rochester in the northern part of Mo. Recd. a little aid at Atchison & had got along as well as could be expected. I ordered the barrels sent from Brooklyn to be shipped to Wyandotte, & wrote

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to Wyandotte to learn whether they had a [MS. illegible], but it is now 8 days since, & I got no word. Another man has been appointed in my stead to disburse the seed wheat sent by the New England Relief [*text stricken through*] Committee to this country.

Rockwell has gone to gardening on their place. Mrs. B. has written that she should be back here by the first of May. She collected \$20 for the meeting house, & her father bought with it trimmings for the windows & doors, & they were to be sent by express. Mrs. B. expects them in to night. Charges all paid she says. & if we had \$200 more, how soon, we might push it through. The plastering is now the heaviest job not yet provided for.

April 1st 1[8]/61[.]

Monday A.M. Eleven o'clock.

No letter from you on Friday night. Had a line from Addison Hand written the day you left there. He said you were well when you left. I had also a very friendly letter from Jessie Dickenson.

Trimnings for door & windows of the meeting house came. Had to pay charges from St. Joseph here, \$1.30[.] They are just what was wanted.

Yesterday warm[.] I got up a little after 4 o'clock -- got ready to go to [MS. illegible] but the rain began to pour down, & it continued on until in the afternoon, so we all stayed at home. Pottawatomie quite full this morn. Grass not raised much yet. Back water over 3 feet deep at our crossing.

Elder Reed got back on last Friday night. I have not learned yet how he succeeded in raising aid--he will probably report soon. But little can now be obtained for this country at Atchison & Wyandotte. Most of the teams have had return empty for 3 weeks past.

As ever,
your Husband.

[*written sideways in left margin*]

P.S. Addison said he had shipped 1 Box, & 1 barrel to W.H. Chichaca.