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Office of "Free State"
Oct 15th 1855

Dear Father & Mother.

We received your letter of the 8th & left in due time. We are glad to hear you all are well, for which we should be very thankful for such mercies. We have not had any war yet in Kansas, nor do we anticipate any soon. There was no such thing as 70 Missourians going through the territory driving off Free State settlers. Our elections are all over, but we have not yet the returns. It is supposed that there are about 2,200 for Whitfield the Pro Slavery candidate. It is also thought that Governor Reader will have a larger vote than Mr Whitfield, notwithstanding this foreign vote. This will be a great triumph to the Free State Party. Everything passed off quietly at both elections, tho many foreigners appeared at the first and voted for Whitfield. We cast 1557 votes in this town for Reader. I am glad Reader has been so well sustained as I was the first one that suggested his name as candidate. We have secured all the evidence he can get so as to contest Whitfield's seat. We take the name of every voter, as well as the returns of the election with him to Washington. There are at least three Free State votes to 1

Office of Free State

Pottawatomie. There is on foot a State organization at present which bids fair to prove something serious. How it will terminate I know not. It is the design to apply for admission into the Union this winter & if it is pressed we will be successful. In the meantime we design to get up a State organization and pass laws for our government. Keeping up our State government until we are admitted. There is an awful crisis in our affairs at present. How it will go we know not. The laws and acts of the people of the Territory will be in direct antagonism to the laws of the late pseudo Legislature. Governor Shannon & all the Territorial officials will be arrayed on the one side & the people on the other. Then comes the tug of war. By this course we place Congress & the Administration in a position in which they must define their position in regard to these outrages. Mr Elliott has been sick for near four weeks with fever & he was near well but caught cold, & is settled in his thigh so that he cannot walk. We have had no division of lots yet. He proposes giving me one half of the lots & paying me all the money that I have put in. But I do not like to leave it until Kansas is a free State. He is unwilling to allow me any more than one half of the lots. I want two thirds for what money I expect of you & what I put in more than he. But I presume we will have a good deal

of difficulties about it. As to moving out West, we are pleased to know of it. We forgot how many acres you have. We do not know whether $2,000 is enough or not for it. We suppose it is as much as you will get. I think it would be better for you to come out in the Spring of the year, & it would be better for you mother & the girls to come by cars & boat but the boys had better come by wagon thoroughly land as there are many things that you should bring along with you & you can bring them better in a wagon than any other way. George will go home & tell you all I would do so too if it is necessary.

I think there is no danger in sending money to him if you are careful to have the letters registered when mailed under the new law. You can always get a duplicate if it is lost. I think I can invest to a good advantage before Spring. I have just your last $2,50 in town lots here, & I intend to set aside some of our lots for the $,00 I said before. Had Elliott not been sick, I would have been down to Wyandotte before this time to look at those lands. I think I can get a good little farm for you there.

Whether it would be better for you to come out next Spring or stay some place in Ind or Ills until you have looked at the West thoroughly & selected your favorite place. But I presume you would

was in Indianapolis when I was there & I will call