

LETTER WRITTEN BY I. M. HIXSON TO ROBERT H. MILLER,
May 20, 1849.

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parly appeared perfectly calm. We stayed at our wagons. Major Lane went to Brown's camp to assist him informing his men but they both could do nothing with them, as some were for firing even after they found they were friendly. We are now encamped six miles below Fort Childs, this is the first day we have layed by since we started, we have ransacked our loads taking 150 days provisions leaving about 400 lbs Bacon & the same amount of Flour from the three wagons, we can only get 2 cents for Bacon at the fort & the same for flour. there will be thousands of lbs of provisions th thrown away on the plains as the emigrants are generally mistaken about the amount they can haul & I do not see how such a mass are to get along when they get there without provisions. But all are anxious to get there first and are pushing their teams so it is impossibl for them to take much loads- & doubtless you will say we are green for throwing away our s but as get there in the game and our teams are almost the best & we are all stout able bodied men, capable of undergoing hardships we are for trying to keep the first company though there are about 300 teams ahead as there was 551 passed the fort yesterday at 2 o'clock & there was a great many between here and the fort & there has been near 100 passed here today, but I think by the time we get to fort Larrey we will overhaul a good many of them. It is getting late etc.

Yours in haste

I.M.Hixson.

LETTER WRITTEN BY I. M. HIXSON TO ROBERT H. MILLER,
May 20, 1849.

Camb. 19 May 20 1849
Robert H. Miller Esq

Dear Friend

I enclose the paper
opportunity to fulfill the promise I made you for
having though I write frequently under very
unfavorable circumstances. The wind is blowing
hard & cold & in the wagon I am sitting
on the ground in a sort of a tent of my own making
rather exposed to wind. Just after a long ride
of 24 hours I am sitting in the shade of a
small little alder tree to write this letter
to write to you concerning our travel to this place
and as I have kept a journal since we started
I will write a few things from that we left home
at 10 o'clock on Monday night. We have
a fine collection of birds & plants that I have
to Henry & Eliza Daniel. Most of the birds are
bragons to the country. I have had a very
pleasant to the others we crossed the river at
July & encamped 15 miles above in the road
to Independence. Here we had a telegram
as an indication to what we have frequently
had since. But knowing about 9 o'clock we took
our last view of Lehigh that lovely place. From the
State road near in Idaho. We made but about
tag in Independence as there was several
cases of Cholera that morning we started

LETTER WRITTEN BY I. M. HINSON TO ROBERT E. MILLER,
May 20, 1849.

Camp No. 19, May 24th, 1849.

Robert E. Miller, Esq..

Dear Friend:-

I embrace the present opportunity to fulfill the promise I made you before leaving, though I write at present under very disadvantageous circumstances, the wind is blowing so hard I cannot sit in the wagon. I am sitting flat on the ground in a tent full of men talking, which I rather condemn. I shall have little to write except concerning our travel to this place. We left home as you are aware Tuesday, May 1st. Three wagons & eight men consisting of Major Lane, J. A. Alexander, Henry R. Brown; Daniel Kelly and myself to two wagons, and Thomas Jackson, James Gork & Paly Carpenter to the other. We crossed the river at Marks ferry & encamped 3 miles above on the road to Independence. Here we had a squally rain as an indication to what we have frequently had since. Next morning about 9 o'clock we took our last look of liberty, that lovely place from the State road near Mr. Stepien. We made but a short stay in Independence as there was several new cases of cholera that morning. We struck right out for the plains, traveling over some very bad road as it rained either day or night & sometimes both, for five days. We crossed the line on Saturday, the 5th. That night we had to camp on the high prairie without either wood or water except what water fell from above, which was no little as it rained hard all night. We struck out next morning at an early hour in no good humor as we had no coffee for breakfast, we travelled over some of the finest prairie ^{to day} ~~land~~ ever beheld - were the country only timbered it would be the garden spot of the west. We encamped

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on Bull creek, here there was a man killed by a wagon running over him, I did not learn his name. On the 7th one of our mules got loose and I know it would amuse you to see us trying to catch it, we tried to lasso it & various other ways & at last tied several ropes together & surrounded it. We reached the Kansas late on the evening of the 8th, we crossed just at dark, we ferried our wagons & men our mules, the ferry is owned by a Frenchman that has been living with the Indians 14 years, we crossed at the lower ferry, the road being much the best. We traveled up the Kansas some distance over beautiful bottom. The Pottawatomies live on this bottom. Here the wagons from western Iowa, fall in with us. Seven men in number. We encamped on Mill creek traveling 26 miles. Here there is a circular saw mill owned by Peter Ballou, a half Indian. This was quite a novel scene after traveling 5 days in an Indian country, to come to a large farm & an excellent saw mill. The Catholic mission within 2 miles of this place, near Bill Boy's I met with Leighton of Independence printing office. He was trying to ascertain the number of persons passing the road. I forgot to mention Bill Boy has a toll bridge which will bring him in lots of money this year. We crossed the frontier on the 10th hauling our food and water some 2 miles so as to get on a high ridge as there had been some stock lost a few nights previous by some emigrants. On the 11th we fell in with a company from Lexington, Mo. Commanded by G. Brown, consisting of 12 wagons & 15 men traveled with them, as they did not travel to suit us & now are on our own hook. 5 wagons & 15 men. On the 11th we passed the grave of an emigrant with this inscription Henry Boush of Ill, died May 24th 1849 - in the evening another I. Adams, though I do not know where he was from. On the

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we passed the grave of James Marshall who died ____ 18th. We crossed the Big Blue the 13th which is a most beautiful stream on the eastern bank are two graves. Sarah Keys, of Springfield, Ill. died May 7th & John Fuller aged 20 years, accidentally shot April 25th 1849. We came to the St. Joseph road on the 14th. This road we found much more traveled than the one from Independence. About this time trains became very frequent principally cattle. At this point there were some 100 wagons in sight, one train from Cooper Mo. one from Pitt, Mo. one from Ohio; from Old Franklin, Mo., and one from Peoria, Ill. This sight has occurred much more frequent in the last few days we begin to overhaul the ox trains. A man may set down and begin to estimate about the number of wagons that will cross the plains, the amount of stock and that it will take to feed them, but he cannot bring his mind properly to realize the matter unless he were to see them. To see some or three hundred wagons crowding & jamming along the road, some cattle, some mules & some horses, I say when he sees this he can begin to realize the matter. On the 15th we passed a company from Louisville, Ky. commanded by Capt Bagley. six of their teams ran away & killed one man by the name of McMillan, though I believe they did no damage otherwise. There was a man in the Lexington company from New York got thrown from his mule & collar bone broken. We had an alarm this morning in camp by the guard, though we could see no Indians. The day we left the Lexington company we passed 150 wagons- among the rest was a company from Mason Co. Ky. they had bought young mules and in breaking them they had broke them down. Should any not have started when this reaches you, be sure and warn them against starting with young stock, & especially mules, for I am confident there are numbers that will never get through with their teams for their mules are now so thin they can scarcely get along

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and experienced men say they ought to loose nothing by this time. We have not had a fair chance to test cattle & mules yet as the weather has been wet & cool but I am sure of one thing that cattle are preferable to indifferent mules- we have passed all the ox trains without difficulty though it is acknowledged by all that our teams are among the best on the roads. We traveled about 50 miles up the Little Blue & then struck across the plains to the Platte, it being 21 miles. On Friday night we had the most severe storm of thunder & rain I ever saw. this was a bitter night for standing guard, we nooned on the Platte. The Lexington company stopped near us- in a few minutes after we stopped the alarm of Indians was given. Our mules were soon secured to the wheels of our wagons, and guns in hand we marched out in front of our wagons for battle. There was some 50 in front & the two companies of us number 54 men, this we thought would be rare sport. But on looking down the prairie we saw the whole bottom lined with them nearly 1000. the advance party came up in full speed to Capt Brown's company, when two men without orders fired on them immediately fortunately did not damage. They immediately retreated back to the main body. in the mean time there was a white man came up and said they were Sioux that had been out to fight the Pawnees, and were friends to the whites. But there was a couple of men went out to meet them & we made them several presents of provisions & they departed without further interruption, though doubtless if those shots had taken effect we would have had trouble. But the effect was the same on the men for no one thought of anything else but their being Pawnees, as we were in the heart of their country & had just heard of their having killed two men and robbing 5 wagons. and 54 men against 1000 was right fearful odds, but our little

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Travelling over some very bad
and either day or night (I mean
for five days we crossed the line on
May 5th that night we had to camp
on the high prairie without either food or water
at last we found water just where we were, which was a little
at night we had all night to be the worst night
arriving at an early hour in the good morning
we had no coffee for breakfast on travelling
one of the finest prairie I ever saw I believe
they say the land sufficiently rich in grain
but not better as the prairie itself and it is
richer than the country we have just left
the garden spot of the west. We are camped near
Bull Creek here there is a man killed by a
Daguer having over him did not leave his
saddle, on the 10th one of our mules got loose
and I think it would amuse you to see us try
to catch it. We tried to catch it to no avail
the way to at last tired of our efforts to get it
we abandoned it. We reached the Cañon late
in the evening of the 9th we crossed just at dusk
we forced our wagons to leave our mules, the
party is owned by a Frenchman that has been living
with the Indians 14 years we crossed at the Cañon
pass the road being much the best we traveled
up the Cañon some distance we saw a beautiful lot of
the Potomac river on this bottom here two wagons
from Boston were full in with us some men in
the morning we camped on Bull Creek travelling

20 miles
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one of the
best of the
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I met an
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of the
we left
the 10th
on the 11th
with this is
1849 in the
do not know
the grave
we crossed
I remain on
Sarah Key
& John E.
April 25th 1849

very bad
the line on
to camp
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ch was a little
without any
and numerous
travelling
never before
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by an Indian
and it was
on a camp
killed by a
not leaving
of food
to see us try
it to no avail
I hope to get
Cañon late
just at dusk
our mules, the
has been living
at the Cañon
to be traveled
a beautiful lot
have two wagons
some men in
the morning

20 miles here there is a circular lake
owned by Peter Bullhorn, a half Indian
was quite a small one after travelling
in the Indian country to come to a large
of an excellent saw mill. The Catholic mission
within 2 miles of his place near Bullhorn's
I met with a Frenchman of the Independent
Mining office he was trying to ascertain the
number of persons passing the road & paying
to Hunter Bullhorn, has a lot of land on which
will bring him in lots of money this year
he crossed the Cañon on the 10th of May
and he has been here for some time
ridges as there had been some gold but it was
previous to the immigration on the 10th we left
a company from Livingston Co. commanded by
W. Brown. Consisting of 13 men going to the
of travelling with them until the 10th
we left them as they did not want to
us to pass on our own
on the 11th we passed the
with this inscription. May
1849 in the morning we
do not know where he
the grave of Isaac Bullhorn
we crossed the Cañon late
I remain on the Cañon late
Isaac Key - of Springfield
& John Bullhorn aged 25 years
April 25th 1849 we crossed

LETTER WRITTEN BY I. M. HILSON TO ROBERT H. MILLER,
May 20, 1849.

LETTER WRITTEN BY I. M. HILSON TO ROBERT H. WILLER,
May 20, 1849.

[illegible]

LETTER WRITTEN BY I. M. HINSON TO ROBERT H. MILLER,
May 20, 1849.

As I am confident there are some men in
the wilderness yet though with few. Some of
these are now so poor they can scarcely get
and experience men say they ought to be
by the time we have not had a grain of corn in
Cattle or could get as the winter has been very
but I am sure of one thing that cattle will
be indispensable. We have paper and
some but not enough to keep us a winter
I feel that we cannot remain here but must
move on. We are about 20 miles from the
river. There are east the plains to the west
being 21 miles. On Friday night we had the most
severe storm of thunder & rain I ever saw. This
was a little slight for standing guard. We moved
to the flatland without touching the lightning. We
stopped near us in a few minutes. When
the alarm of Indians was given soon
soon secured the wheels of some of our
guns in hand we marched out our
wagons for battle. There was some
to the two companies of us. No. 55
though would be rare sport. But
the prize we saw the whole party
with them nearly 1000. We are
off in full speed to Capt. B.
when two men without notice
But fortunately did no damage.

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...back to the main body, in the mean
...a white man came up and said
...long had been out to fight the
...and were friendly to the whites
...was a couple of men sent out
...them & we made them several presents
...of provisions & they departed without
...intention though doubtless if those who
...the effect was the same on the men as
...of any thing else but this being
...as we were in the heart of their country
...just heard of their having killed two
...and riding 5 wagons - and 50 men
...1000 was right fearful odds, but our
...the party appeared perfectly calm. We stayed
...our wagons. Major Lane went to Brown
...to assist him in forming his men but
...could do nothing with them as
...for firing even after they found
...friendly. We are now in camp
...for J. Childs. This is the first day
...since we started. Have remodelled
...100 130 days provision leaving
...to the same amount of flour
...we can only get 3 cents
...the same for flour
...thousands of lbs of provisions
...the plains as the emigrants are
...about the amount there

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provisions
negants
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Can head. & I do not know how
are to get along when they get their
provisions. But all are anxious to get
fast and are pushing their time so it is
for them to take much longer it doubtless
will say we are open for throwing away
but as yet there is the game and our
are amongst the best & we are all about
loaded from capitals of under going head
ships we are for trying to keep the fast company
though there are about 300 teams ahead of
there was 600 papers the fast company
there was a great many letters but the
get to there has been there 100 papers
to day - but I think by the time we get to
at Larion we will overhaul a good many
of them. It is getting late & I am sure
you find the principle there & it is near
time for that it must clear
I should be pleased much gratified
to receive a letter from you. Yours in
haste I M Hilson
To give my respects to all who may enquire
after me and especially Miss Martha
You will look over her writing & statistics and
have explained the cause you are at liberty to
use this as you please

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LETTER WRITTEN BY I. M. HINCH TO ROBERT E. MILLER,
May 20, 1849.

