

WATERVILLE, KANSAS. SEPT. 28. 1870.

Cousin Seth, as I am not at work today I thought I would write a few lines to you and let you know how I was getting along. I have not had much to do since I have been here, there is not much going on here any way, and if I had had any thing to do I could not have done it for I have been sick most every since I got here, and I have had pretty tough times of it but I am much better now and I guess that I shall get along all right, I shall if I get any thing to do if I do not I shall go to work for my self. I have not done but one days work yet and that was yesterday, I worked for Mr. Greene upon the new Church it is a large building larger than either of the Churches at Posters Corners but that is not saying much, I now but it is the largest building that I ever was on but I made it go first rate, and got my pay there dont seem to be much money here at least I dont see much ~~and~~ for I am about strappell and I dont like the Idea of being out here with no money, it took most off of all of my.

Stamps to pay my doctors bill so I am  
pretty low, I dont know how I shall get  
along this winter, how are you getting  
along with your work this fall is it wet  
and rainy there well if it is not there it is  
here I wish you could be here and see  
the mud it is about a foot deep and  
as black and sticky as tar, oh it is nice  
Bleeding Kansas how are you you dont think  
that you will come out this fall do you  
well I guess that you had better stay there  
than come out here, but if you want to farm  
it for a living you can not do better than to come  
out here, if you want to come I will get you  
1,000 acres of land and have it all ready  
for you to move on, ~~but~~ I dont know  
but I guess I shall get me a piece of land  
if I dont make my mind to come home  
in the Spring I dont know as I shall have  
money enough to come with and I dont  
know as I care much about coming back  
any way I guess that you wont see me before  
Newyears if you do then how does your  
neighbors get along the ones above you I  
mean I suppose they are all right have you  
heard them say any thing about me since  
I left I suppose they dont care enough about  
me to say any thing about me do they no well  
I suppose that it is all right, I guess that

They dont any body think enough about  
me to write to me for I have not had a letter  
since I got here but I should think that  
they might write me a few lines and tell  
me that they are all well or come home and  
that they are glad that I am gone, seth  
I think that I shall go to Ellice and  
Washington in a few days and from there  
to Pikes Peak and if I get killed by the  
Red skins dont cry a tear but slap your hands  
and laugh, but if the reds does take my  
~~hair~~ hair I am afraid that you will lose  
your knapsack but that wont make  
you poor, but I guess that the red  
Devils wont get me without some pains  
for I have got a good rifle and revolver  
and ~~small~~ hunting knife, when you get this  
I shall be without the least doubt on my  
road to Pikes Peak to but write as I tell you  
and I shall get it all right this is the  
first chance I have had of writing to you  
as I have had to write to others that I promised  
before you, but I have not had any answer  
yet I dont know what is the matter with  
the folks in that section for I gave them  
Directions in full I would like to have  
you write to me as soon as possible for  
I dont know how long I shall remain in  
this place I dont think that I shall stay here

more than three or four weeks at  
most if I can get away, but I can  
not coming home until I am worth  
something if it takes ten years for  
it won't say not much it cost me  
\$50,00 to come out here and it would  
cost me \$6, more to get home and  
I am going to make or break I have  
all to win and nothing to loose I think  
that I can do well enough here in  
time you need not tell any one that  
I have had hard times to get along for  
it won't make it any better as I know  
of I wish you would send me a ~~scraps~~  
Paper if you can I should like to see  
one and find out what is going on in  
Durham well as I have got to  
the end of my paper and written all I  
know and more to so I had better close  
to a close, now please write as soon as  
you get this and Direct to

James M. Bounds,

Waterville, Marshall, Co  
Kansas

my love to all

Good bye from your Cousin  
J M Bounds