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Kansas Territory – Letters from Mound City, 1859

Collection Summary

Title:	Kansas Territory – Letters from Mound City, 1859
Call Number:	MS 81-02
Size:	0.25 linear feet
Acquisition:	Purchased from Alfred Goodman Rare Books
Processed by:	RJK, 9-18-1981; SMC, 5-4-1998; MN, 12-2008; MN, 12-2014
Restrictions:	None

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Content Note

This collection includes seven letters which describe conditions in Kansas Territory in the years 1858 and 1859. Five letters were written by Frank Walker, and one each by Byron Corbin and Myron Corbin. All three men are anti-slavery advocates who settled in Linn County, Kansas Territory, in 1857. Each letter is accompanied by an undated typewritten transcription.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 1	FF 1	Letter from Frank Walker to Milo Walker. Frank Walker was writing from Mound City January 17, 1858 or 1859. Discusses slavery issue and homestead claims.
Box 1	FF 2	Letter from Frank Walker to sister Jane, dated February 18, 1859, from Mound City. Mentions raid by pro-slavery man from Missouri. Walker reports he was mistakenly taken prisoner by pro-slavery forces and transported to Lawrence. Includes description of economic and agricultural conditions.

Box 1	FF 3	Letter from Frank Walker to Augusta Walker dated May 4, 1858 or 1859. Letter reassures family that all is well with discussion of economic conditions. On final page he writes "Montgomery for freedom, Brown for Liberty," referring to antislavery leaders James Montgomery and John Brown.
Box 1	FF 4	Letters from Frank Walker dated May 17, 1859. Letter at top of sheet to his father refutes accusation by "Old Col" and expresses extensive concern that his reputation had been damaged. In second letter on same sheet, Walker asks Milo to check on news of another settler in Kansas whom he believes keeps company with pro-slavery Missourians.
Box 1	FF 5	Letter from Myron M. Corbin to Joseph Walker dated July 9, 1859, describing farming conditions in Mound City during summer 1859. Also mentions "stampede of Gold hunters" coming through.
Box 1	FF 6	Letter from Frank Walker to his father April 25 indicating conditions in April 1859. States intent to prompt a claim on Delaware land when they are opened up to settlement.
Box 1	FF 7	Letter from Byron Corbin to friend, probably written in 1859 but is not dated. Indicates Corbin joined anti-slavery forces known as the Jayhawkers.

For information, please contact us at:

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