

C Starr, Frederick, Jr. (1826-1867), Papers, 1850-1863
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INTRODUCTION

Starr was a colonizationist, free soiler, and Presbyterian clergyman in Weston, Missouri, 1852-1855. The collection contains correspondence, broadsides, pamphlets, and clippings on settlement of the Kansas-Nebraska Territories, border conflicts, abolitionism vs. slavery, local politics, Indian affairs, public land sales, claims, and prices, popular sovereignty, squatters' rights, and religion on the frontier.

DONOR INFORMATION

The papers were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by Lucy Hills Starr in January 1936. Additions were made by Lucy Hills Starr on 27 August 1937 and September 1938.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Frederick Starr, Jr. was born in New York. His father had a piano manufacturing and sales business in Rochester. Frederick was a Yale graduate and attended Auburn Seminary where he met and married Helen, the daughter of an Auburn professor. They moved to Weston, Missouri, where Frederick was active in community activities as well as religious affairs. He was a colonizationist, free soiler, member of the Leavenworth Association, and a Presbyterian minister. Labeled an abolitionist, he argued his position before the Platte County Self Defensive Association, but was removed from his post in 1855 and forced to flee Weston. He held pastorates in Pennsylvania and the North Presbyterian Church in St. Louis. Between pastorates he made his home in Canandaigua and was financial agent for Auburn Seminary. He died in St. Louis in 1867 and was buried in Auburn, New York. The Starr's had three children, Nell and Harry (born in Weston), and Lucy.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Frederick Starr, Jr.'s papers consist of letters to his father written from Weston, Missouri, 1852-1855; broadsides; pamphlets; and newspaper clippings. The slavery controversy in western Missouri, settlement of the Kansas/Nebraska territories, and Starr's role as an accused abolitionist and free soiler are richly described. Activities of the Platte County Self Defensive Association, the Leavenworth Association, squatters, Mormons and Indians; and Kansas/Missouri border conflicts, politics, and citizens' meetings are covered. The collection is calendared. Arrangement is chronological.

FOLDER LIST

- f. 1 **1852, December 1.** [Starr], Frederick, Weston [Platte County, Missouri], to Sister Caroline and Father. **[DIGITIZED]**
Mentions his health and his living quarters with the Hulse family. Tells of conducting family worship every morning. Mentions his former school for Negroes; describes type of preacher the Negroes like. Tells of trip to St. Joseph. Mentions several pastors and their locations. Gives titles of songs which he requests Sarah to send him. States that he sent the book "Love affairs in our village 20 yrs ago." Jokingly gives advice to sisters. Mentions the *Western Reporter*. Personal remarks to various members of the family. Addresses his father and mentions "cent" which he encloses - explains how it could be used in advertising pianos and gives illustrations. Thinking of sending an order for pianos - mentions freight and insurance and gives figures.
- f. 1 **1854, August 1.** [Starr], Frederick, Weston, Platte County, Missouri, to Father. **[DIGITIZED]**
Description and opinion of political affairs in western Missouri as concerns the Nebraska territory and the Missouri Compromise. Views of David R. Atchison. Attitude of the North and the South. Reference to attacks made on Thomas H. Benton in political speeches by Missouri senators and congressmen. Reaction of the people to the passing of the Kansas-Nebraska bill. Efforts of pro-slavery element to settle lands in the Kansas and Nebraska territory. Account of first pro-slavery meeting held in Kansas or Nebraska. Code of laws to regulate squatters passed at this meeting. It was also agreed "to protect every man in his claim against aggression 'except abolitionists.'" Tells of seeing wagon trains, Mormon camps, the government farm, Fort Leavenworth, and the U.S. mule yards. Vivid description of scene at mule yards. Tells of ferry boat; gives receipts and expenses. Gives terms of the Salt Creek Squatters Association; of settling claims and building. Account of his own land operations. His advice to Mr. Gist, surveyor, relative to the "Gov. Reserve at Leavenworth." Diagram of Fort Leavenworth and surrounding lands. The Leavenworth Association, its members and their progress - Maj. Odgen and Maj. McClain two of its four trustees. Town site [Leavenworth] prepared for survey and public sale of lots. Amount offered for lots, investments and expenses stated. Advantages of the location and mention of the treaty with the Delawares. Governor Reeder mentioned.
- f. 1 **1854, August 21.** [Starr], Frederick, Weston, [Platte County, Missouri], to Father. **[DIGITIZED]**
Reference to town site "called Leavenworth" and opposition to it. States that some of the most "abandoned and degraded men" live in "our city" and describes five Burns brothers and "Me on the levee" McHolland, who, after seeking to get into the Leavenworth Association and being repulsed by the whole association, together

with some of the rich slaveholders of Platte City try to destroy the association. Details of a meeting which convened with a man named Bird as chairman. Account of speeches: Benj. Franklin Stringfellow's in which he charged Maj. Odgen and Mr. Panton as being abolitionists; Clarke's speech and one made by himself. Reference to Panton and Clarke being forced to define their positions but "I was too ugly to define mine..." Mentions note written by Clinton Cockrell in which he stated, "Mr. Panton & Mr. Clarke have expressed themselves as in favor of Slavery, why did not the Reverend Gentleman [Starr] do the same?" Tells that note was passed to 12 or 14 persons and gives results of the meeting. Capt. Hunt and O'Deifendorf mentioned. Communication between the North and the South forbidden. Tells of selling a property share in the Leavenworth Association and gives figures showing the increased value of shares over a short period. Mentions cholera. Asks that father send Helen's picture.

f. 1

1854, September 19. [Starr], Frederick, Weston, Platte County, Missouri], to Father. **[DIGITIZED]**

Ironic comments on the misfortune of his Yankee pedigree, the selection of his place of birth, his removal to a country to live "where the offscouring of the back woods of Kentucky, Tennessee & Virginia went," and selecting a time to live "when the Missouri compromise was repealed by the treachery of northern doughfaces and the black heartedness of southern men." Account of Stringfellow and his associates calling a second meeting, after the first meeting in opposition to the city of Leavenworth had failed. Gives purpose of meeting and a copy of the "call" which appeared in the *Platte Argus*. Mentions articles that appeared in this paper relative to the "emigration aid society," also in regard to Eli Thayer and the death of Batchelder in Boston. Refers to runaway slaves - by whom influenced and the outcome. Account of escape to Canada of two slaves belonging to Jack Vine- yard and one intelligent mulatto slave owned by Peter T. Abell. Slaveholders unjustly blame abolitionists. "Notorious" Platte County Self Defensive Association organized.

f. 1

1854, October 18. Starr, Frederick, Weston [Platte County, Missouri], to Father. **[DIGITIZED]**

The Platte County Self Defensive Association fully organized and operating against "Emigration Aid societies, Abolitionists and free soilers." Detailed description of the arrest and trial of Minard, a free soiler. Eli Thayer, Stringfellow and Abel, and Dick Murphy mentioned in connection with Minard's case. "Self defensives" establish night patrol in order to catch the abolitionists and to secure the Negroes. Arrest by a posse upon the declaration of a Negro, and the trial of a man named Osborne. Account of his [Starr's] conversation with

Wallingford and his refusal to become a member of the Self Defensive Association organization; also his views on the subject of slavery.

Mentions enclosing checks and gives sum of each.

- f. 1 **1854, October 30.** [Starr, Frederick], Weston [Platte County], Missouri, to Father. **[DIGITIZED]**

Again refuses, when asked by John W. Vineyard, to sign the resolutions of the "Self Defensives." Talks to Vineyard against Benj. F. Stringfellow and of abolition charges. Agrees, when asked by Jack Vineyard and Dr. G.W. Bayliss, to speak before the Platte County Self Defensive Association on his stand on the slavery question and to explain "certain charges of Abolition." Mentions words used in speech of the Benton legislative candidate ten days before. Tells of his procedure in preparation for the meeting. Gives account of entering the courthouse and being called upon to address the Association. Diagram of the court house given, showing where the leading men sat and his own position. Describes how he felt. [Incomplete.]

- f. 1 **1854, November 29.** [Starr, Frederick], [Weston, Platte County, Missouri], to Father "& all the others." **[DIGITIZED]**

Detailed account of his speech before the Platte County Self Defensive Association, in which he defends himself against charges of being an abolitionist; relates responses of Judge Galloway, Dr. Bayliss, Gen. Stringfellow, and Mr. Vineyard; explains why he taught six slaves for a few months - gives the names of the masters and tells of them giving their permission for him to teach the slaves - and quotes from a sermon of Dr. Thornwell, president of the University of South Carolina, on the subject which, in part, says, "But without stopping to inquire in what way temporal legislation may most effectually protect the rights of the slave, we hesitate not to affirm that one of the highest and most solemn obligations which rests upon the masters of the South, is to give to their servants, to the utmost extent of their ability, free access to the instructions & institution of the gospel ..." [Incomplete]

- f. 2 **1854, December 1.** [Starr], Frederick, [Weston, Platte County, Missouri], to [Father]. **[DIGITIZED]**

Description of election in Kansas as the "greatest outrage on the ballot box ever perpetrated." Missourians seized polls and prevented free soilers from voting. Future hope for settlement very dim in Weston.

[Incomplete]

- f. 2 **1854, December 29.** [Starr, Frederick], Weston [Platte County, Missouri], to [Father]. **[DIGITIZED]**

Continued account of his speech before the Platte County Self Defensive Association, in which he explains various rumors charging him with being an abolitionist; answers charges of "having talked

- with Mr. Bland about setting Henry free;" of telling "Mr. Risk that he ought to free his slaves;" and "that on July 4th I had insulted the citizens by riding on to the grounds with a negro in my buggy." Tells of response made by Dr. Bayliss and a resolution offered by Mr. Vineyard - "Resolved that we deem the explanations of our Starr concerning various rumors of his being an abolitionist as wholly sufficient & satisfactory" - and the vote on the resolution. [Last page incomplete]
- f. 3 **1855, January 15.** [Starr, Frederick], Weston [Platte County, Missouri], to Father. **[DIGITIZED]**
Explanation concerning a bank note. Mentions being exonerated by a vote of the Self Defensives from being an abolitionist. Continues with account of his speech before the Platte County Self Defensive Association, in which he fully expresses his opinion of slavery and de- fines his position on the subject. Tells of being interrupted with questions by a "Rev. Mr. Irish." [Incomplete]
- f. 3 **1855, February 22.** [Starr], Frederick, Weston [Platte County, Missouri], to Father. **[DIGITIZED]**
Conclusion of his speech before the Platte County Self Defensive Association, in which he further explains his opinion and position on the slavery question and says he is neither an abolitionist nor a pro-slavery man, but a free soiler and a "colonizationist" - "I am a life member of this society under the hand writing of its president the Hon Henry Clay of Ky. It is the only society with which I sympathize or to which I contribute." Comments on Kansas:
"In reference to Kansas - I am not only a Colonizationist as regards slavery in slave states, but in reference to territory now free, I am a free soiler, I am in favor of keeping it free and if I go to Kansas & live there, there will be one vote cast in favor of Kansas a free state." Mentions Dr. Bayliss, at the conclusion of his [Starr's] address, introducing two resolutions "for the armed invasion of Kansas," and calling on Gen. B.F. Stringfellow to talk on the subject. Remarks made by Stringfellow and his later attempt to deny them. Tells of conversation which Stringfellow had with H.M. Moore "which Stringfellow misrepresented which called out an article in the paper by Moore, which led to a couple of circulars..." Mentions scarlet fever epidemic. Tells of lecturing on temperance and preaching every night in a big meeting at St. Joseph. Mentions Helen and babies.
- f. 3 **1855, February 26.** [Starr], Frederick, Weston [Platte County, Missouri], to Father. **[DIGITIZED]**
A lengthy account relative to circulars put out by B.F. Stringfellow and H.M. Moore, as a result of certain remarks, or charges of remarks, made by Stringfellow. Stand taken by persons for each man. Mentions Dr. Thomas Beaumont and Jack Vineyard. States that Stringfellow accused him [Starr] of being the author of Moore's circular. Mentions the next meeting of the Self Defensive

Association and the "Non Intercourse resolutions." Tells of Stringfellow's resolutions introduced at "the next meeting to that" and his two hour speech. Indignation of citizens against Stringfellow and his followers in their treatment of free Negroes. Preparation of citizens to protect free Negroes and their attitude toward Stringfellow and his partner, Peter T. Abell. Resolution presented by Jack Vineyard, to pledge merchants not to buy from northern cities, signed by only one firm. Tells of citizens meeting - of a handbill that was posted; of resolutions brought in by Mr. Hulse and a speech by Mr. Wright; also of bill posted by the *Argus* and its effect. Resolution presented to committee requesting that Abell and Stringfellow withdraw from Weston - committee thought best not to admit it into their resolutions. Dr. Bayliss' reply to the citizens meeting.

- f. 3 **1855, March 19.** [Starr], Frederick, Weston [Platte County, Missouri], to Father. **[DIGITIZED]**
Mentions Stringfellow's and Moore's circulars and the citizens meeting. Quotes an article which appeared in the *Liberty Platform*, a paper owned and operated by Judge Jim Thompson at Liberty, Clay County, Missouri, under the title "Abolitionists in Weston." States that article "makes greater admissions in reference to your humble servant that I deem just or true but still it may be the impression which has fixed itself upon the minds of the fire eating part of the community, if so I would not have it otherwise." Gives details in regard to the nomination of a candidate for congressman from Kansas: operations of D.R. Atchison; the organization of a secret order, the "blue Lodge"; the "red hot pro slavery" people in Jackson County picking a Tennessean; candidate brought to Weston; assemblage at Leavenworth City, the place selected for the meeting, and the final nomination of Gen. Whitfield as Kansas' congressman. Helen and babies mentioned.
- f. 3 **1855, March 31.** [Starr, Frederick], Weston [Platte County, Missouri], to Father. **[DIGITIZED]**
Describes the attempts of Missourians to control the election of members of the Council and House of Representatives for Kansas Territory at the election the day before. Shows that in the Leavenworth district alone "more than 800 *illegal, imported, hired, unprincipled* voters in the district [were] brought over from Missouri." Requests his father to publish the facts concerning the election, "with appropriate comments and appeals," in the *Albany Evening Journal*, and asks he "tear off the other leaf of this sheet" and send it to Dr. Charles Leib, Lancaster City, Pennsylvania. [Incomplete]
- f. 3 **[1855, April].** [Starr, Frederick, Weston, Platte County, Missouri, to Father.] **[DIGITIZED]**
Suggests father should not come to sell musical instruments although there are 90 young ladies in Platte County taking music lessons.

- Requests Bro. Reeves' rosewood piano be sent. Violence, unrest on Missouri-Kansas border. Slavery controversy and Kansas politics. Starr plans to withdraw from Weston in three or four weeks. Account of the destruction of Park and Patterson's printing press. Park wealthy, may pursue attackers to the Supreme Court. Victories for pro-slavery people. Disillusionment. [Incomplete]
- f. 4 **[1852, December 12]**. Parkville Presbyterian Church, Parkville, Missouri. Announcement of dedication and order of service.
- f. 4 **Undated**. U.S. Census. Population: Whites, Free Negroes, Slaves. Number of Farms. Kind of Employment.
- f. 5 **1854, July 12**. Weston [Missouri] *Sentinel*. A call to the people! Mass meeting, at the Court House, in Weston, on Saturday, July 15, 1854, at 2 o'clock, P.M. Broadside.
- f. 5 **1854, August 7**. Stringfellow, B.F., Weston, Missouri. An abolition trick exposed! Broadside.
Contains: Communications from H. Miles Moore, A.H. Deaver, and Sol. P. McCurdy concurred by J.P. Earickson, from the *Weston Reporter*, and a certification of 22 names which say in part, "In justice to Mr. Stringfellow we state that we were present and heard his speech throughout, and that the foregoing statements of H. Miles Moore, are each and all utterly unfounded."
- f. 5 **1854, August 12**. Moore, H. Miles, Weston, Missouri. "An abolition trick exposed!" Eh? Broadside. 2 copies.
Contains: Communication for the *Weston Reporter* from Moore and certification by citizens of Platte County, Missouri, that the above statements are substantially those made by B.F. Stringfellow in his speech before the Platte County Self Defensive Association, July 29, 1854. 17 signatures.
- f. 5 **1854, August 31**. Many Citizens. Notice!! The citizens of Weston and vicinity, are hereby notified to meet at the Court House on Friday, 1st September, at 7 o'clock, P.M., to adopt such measures as they may deem most proper and expedient, and best calculated to counteract the effect produced by some of the doings of some of the men connected with the "Platte County Self Defensive Association." Broadside.
- f. 5 **1854, September 1**. Gist, G.W., and J.B. Evans, Chairman and Secretary, Weston, Missouri. Citizens meeting. 176 signers. Broadside. 3 copies.
- f. 5 **1854, September 1**. Notice, by Many Citizens. Broadside.
The Abolitionists and Free soilers of Weston and vicinity are hereby notified to meet at the Court House on Friday, 1st of September, at 7 o'clock p.m. to adopt such measures as they deem most proper and expedient, and best calculated to Counteract the Effect produced by some of the doings of some of the men connected with the "Platte County Self Defensive Association", Weston, September 1, 1854. Signed by many Citizens.

- f. 5 **Undated.** Memorial. To the President of the United States: The undersigned, on behalf of the settlers upon lands in Kansas Territory, ceded to the United States in July last, by the Delaware Indians, submit to the President of the United States, this their respectful Memorial.
Broadside.
- f. 6 **1855, June 4.** *Batavia Democrat*. Public meeting. The citizens of Batavia and vicinity are requested to meet at Ellicott Hall, this (Monday) evening at 7 o'clock, and hear an address by the Rev'd. Fred. Starr, Jr.,... who has been driven from his post in Kansas as a Christian Missionary, (where he has resided with his family for five years past), at the bidding and dictation of the slave power. Mr. Starr will address the people on the subject of the recent outrages against the free citizens of Kansas, by which the right of suffrage had been invaded! The Pulpit.
Broadside.
- f. 6 **1855, March 30.** Kansas Election! Qualification of voters. Dissection of the Oath prescribed by the Governor. Broadside. 2 copies.
- f. 7 **1863, July 18.** *Harper's Weekly*. The Invasion of the North - Street scenes in Philadelphia. - Sketched by Mr. Thomas Nast (Illus.). Also text - "The invasion of the North."
- f. 7 **1863, September 12.** *Weston Sentinel Extra*. Broadside. Contains: Mass Meeting at Platte City. Immediate Emancipation. The Result of this Strife - Extirpation of Slavery.
- f. 8 **1855.** Leavenworth Association, Kansas Territory.
A letter from the original members of the Leavenworth Association, K.T., to Hon. Jefferson Davis, secretary of the War Department. Printed by Finch & O'Gorman, *Reporter Office*, Weston, Missouri, 1855. Pamphlet, 8 pp.
- f. 8 **1855, February 14.** U.S. 33rd Congress, 2nd Session, 1854-1855. Report of the Secretary of War, in compliance with A resolution of the Senate, of February 10, 1855, calling for correspondence relative to the military reservation at Fort Leavenworth. February 14, 1855 - Read, referred to the Committee on Military Affairs, and ordered to be printed. Pamphlet, 32 pp.
- f. 9-20 **1854-1867, n.d.** Newspaper clippings. Missionary work in the Platte Purchase; views and opinions on slavery and abolition in Missouri and Kansas; Mormonism; address by Rev. Frederick Starr at Presbyterian Church, Thanksgiving Day; the beginnings of Leavenworth; squatters meetings; the Kansas-Nebraska Act; Self Defensive Association meetings; problems with Indians.

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Farley, Josiah	13
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Starr, Charley	1
Starr, Frederick, Jr. (1826-1867)	1-20
Starr, Frederick, Sr.	1-3
Starr, George	1
Starr, Harry	1

Subject	Folders
Starr, Helen (Mrs. Frederick, Jr.)	1-3
Starr, Henry	1
Starr, Nelly	1
Starr, Sarah	1
State rights	1-20
Stelle, James	13
Stevens, Daniel	7
Stevens, Daniel H.	5
Stringfellow, Benjamin Franklin	1, 3, 5, 11-14, 16-20
Stringfellow, John H.	13
Summers, Jesse	19
Summers, William H.	17, 19
Temperance	3
Thayer, Eli (1819-1899)	1, 2, 14
The Daily Democrat, Rochester, New York	17
Thompson, Jim	3
Tiblow, Henry	14
Todd, Jarrett	17
Tritt, Perry	16
Turner, Graham	13
Turner, Harry	1
Vineyard, Jesse	5
Vineyard, John W. "Jack"	1-4, 13, 14
Wah-pe-nem-mah	14
Wallingford, D. P.	1, 10, 13
Ward, Robert	13, 14
Waugh, William B.	14
Welch, William	12
Wells, John B.	5, 12, 14
Wells, William H.	16
West, John	14
Western Luminary, Parkville, Missouri	12, 17-19
Weston Reporter, Weston, Missouri	1, 12
Weston Sentinel, Weston, Missouri	6
Wisely, L. A.	7, 16
Woods, Benjamin	5, 14
Woods, James	5
Woods, Jeremiah	20
Woodward, George S.	1
Wright, Edmund	9
Wright, J. B.	5, 10, 13, 14