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Saint Paul, Territory of Minnesota,

April 15th 1850.

SIR :

I have the agreeable duty of informing you of your election as a member of the "Minnesota Historical Society."

A primary object of this Association is the collection and preservation of a Library; Mineralogical and Geological specimens; Indian curiosities, and every matter and thing connected with, and calculated to illustrate and perpetuate the history and settlement of the Territory of Minnesota; and to publish in book form the most valuable manuscripts that may come into the possession of the Society. I need not advise you, that it is the earnest wish of the Society, that you will cheerfully act in a capacity of so great importance to the honor of the present and the benefit of the future age.

Accompanying this, you will receive a pamphlet published by the society, that more fully explains its objects.

I avail myself of the opportunity, which the occasion presents, of expressing to you the great pleasure with which I subscribe myself

Your obedient servant,

J. Smith
Secretary of the Minnesota Historical Society.
[Chron. & Reg. Print.]

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Hon. A. Brown
Com'r. In. affairs
Washington City
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had them chronologically arranged & bound into vols — nine vols of them, & 2 more of his elder brother Jonathan Clark. I another of his cousin W. Clark, who served under him in the West — making 12 vols of Clark Papers. I have seen abt. a dozen of Clarks & Ind. fighters, who served with him from 1774 to 1786 — I taken very full notes of them all. I have Col. Robt. Patterson's old papers — Col. Wm. Hamonds — Col. Whitley's, & many others. I have also of grandfather, Col. Wm. Prestons, chronologically arranged & bound in 5 vols, & in my home work you will see something of their value in illustrating Western history. Among these bound Preston Papers are perhaps 20 or more letters of grandfather Rev. John Brown — letters merely of friendship & family affairs, some few also of your own father, when at W. & Mary College, afterwards. My bound vols. of Mass. or West. history amount to 50 vols, — & I have enough more MSS. to make, I think 30 vols more. Beside all this, I have many thousand pages of notes of conversations with old men & pioneers — I extract from newspaper files in the Congressional Printer's Office, from 1728 to Wayne's final pacification in 1794.

I sh^d be rejoiced to add to my collection your father's old papers — they c^d be better used by me, in connection with my collection, than by any other person — so I honestly think. I c^d also wish I had the old papers of Judge Innis — they as a special favor that you will consult the Hon. J. B. Bittenden about them, in my behalf.

If I can at any time render you any service, they you will let me know.

May I hope soon to have the pleasure of hearing from you. — One other favor — whenever you notice any West. hist. matter in y^r Ky. newspapers, or the death of old pioneers, they you will remember to send them to me. Y^r most sincerely, — B. Mansel Rogers

Private.

Madison, Wisconsin, Apr. 19th 1854.

My Dear Sir: I duly rec^d your kind favor of the 4th instant — I am pleased that you so readily accept of the tendered membership in our Hist. Society, for which I ventured to nominate you to the Executive Committee. The Society had been languishing for five years — only 50 vols. in its library, & no interest in it, save the hands of a few who met once a year & placed themselves in official positions — got their names into the papers — & did nothing else. When I came here 18 months ago, I proposed to take hold with them if they would work, or would let me work. They higgled awhile, & finally this winter my plans were adopted. I left mainly to carry them out — got a charter — by my personal exertions got an annual state appropriation of \$500 for the Society, & 30 bound copies of all state publications annually, to aid in securing exchanges — & 50 bound copies more annually (or abt. 350) to Mr. Valtemare — by wh. letter, both the State & Hist. Libraries will unquestionably be greatly enriched. Within the last 8 weeks, the additions to our Library have been nearly 700 vols, three fourths donations — several valuable portraits, &c.

You are right about our former correspondence. The Clark work has never been completed, but I am constantly adding to materials not only for that work, but

for others on Boone, Kenton, Whitley, Brady, Sevier & others. I have the work on Boone nearly completed, & will go to press in the autumn, as I now think. Jared Sparks strongly advised me to lay aside the Clark work awhile, as it is designed to be my main work, twice as large as any other - & pioneer its way with the smaller works on Boone &c.

For some years back, I have been in poor health - a nervous dyspepsia - all the time about, but utterly unable to labor steadily. Yet I keep accomplishing something - & my health rather improving.

I am now in correspondence with Benson J. Lossing, of Poughkeepsie, N.Y., the author of the noble Field Book of the Revolution, so profusely & beautifully illustrated by his industry & genius, & gotten up in the very best style of the Harpers - & there is a very strong probability, almost bordering on certainty, that he & I will form a literary union, & push out my border series as rapidly as possible - Lossing spending a needful portion of his time with me, & the rest in visiting scenes deserving of illustration by his pencil, & attending to publishing. I have certainly original material enough to keep us both

hard at work for at least ten years. Genl. Clark will not be neglected - Mr. Lossing having as high a reverence, if possible, for his character & services as I have.

You speak of having interesting papers, letters, &c. of western characters - V. father's old correspondence, I suppose. I sh^d. be truly glad to have for my historical works every thing of that kind that can throw the least light upon western history, & great characters - you shall have the fullest credit for them. When my Boone work is out, you will see some evidence of my patient, & I trust, well directed, researches. - Sh^d. you consent to send me all such papers you have, leaving me to select such as I, & Mr. Lossing sh^d. esteem useful - I shall be deeply grateful. If you have no time to examine them - send all along; if there are any family or personal matters, which sh^d. not go before the public, they shall be carefully returned to you.

I suppose you know that I have Gen. E. K. Clark's old papers - the same that Mann Butler once had, & after him poor Bliss. Butler never used them to any great extent, except Clark's N. h. narrative. I have

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Madison, Wis.
May 13th '54.

Mr. Brown -

Dr. Sir: Will you have the
goodness to solicit the insertion
of the enclosed slips - one
in the Commonwealth, &
the other in the Roman, or
whatever paper may (if any)
be published in its place.

I wrote you abt my proposed
union with Mr. Postings. Though not
yet fully consummated it is nearly so.
We announce Boone thus early because
an enterprising publishing house in
Central N.Y. (Desh. H. Allen & Co.) have
got up a new series written a
Vol. on Boone, wh. they are about
to publish. So far as I can learn
it will contain little or nothing new
on Boone - but doubtless may
prove a very fair compilation. The
work of Mr. Loring & myself shall be
all we promise.

Yrs friend & st. servt
H. M. D. Phelps

42 x 12

Letter.
L. L. Draper

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Madison, Wis^a July 22^d '54.

My D^r Sir:

I thank you for yr^r kindness
in securing for the Boone announce-
-ment to generous a notice in
the Commonwealth?

Mr. Bogart's work on Boone has
just appeared - I thought a very
readable work, it comes short of
my expectations. I never thought
he could give anything new -
yet I thought he wd. have made a
better use of printed authorities,
extant than he has.

It remains to be seen whether
Mr. Loring & I will succeed
any better. Mr. L. has just
paid me a visit, & gone over the
whole field with me - & has returned
home full in the faith that we
can give a worthy work on the
old Ky pioneer. Mr. L. will
visit yr. city in the autumn,

Y^r L. Dr. Sir
J. L. Dr. Sir

I shall suggest that he call
on you. He will wish to sketch
the Boone grave in 3^d Cemetery
— perhaps the Boone portrait in
the State House. Also the
monument of Ch. R. M. Johnson,
& secure any new material
extant in 8th region relative
to the war of 1812-15, — for a work
on which he has been under
engagement to the Harpers for
some time to prepare, & illustrate.

Write now more particularly
to see if you can spare for Mr.
Loring a copy of Gov. Morehead's
Boonesboro' Address — if you
have not a spare copy, perhaps
you could get one of Col. Hodges.

Have a single copy — Mr. Loring
needs one also. Another copy
w^d be most desirable for the library
of our Hist. Society.

Mr. Loring's address is — Poughkeepsie,
N.Y. —

Hon. O. Brown.

Yrs Most Sincerely,

Sylvanus C. Draper.