1885

Letter from John Brown Jr. to Franklin Benjamin Sanborn, April 18, 1885

John Brown Jr

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My dear friend:—neglect during your absence

Yours, of the 27th

with several of my old letters and

one of Jason's Came last evening.

Probably you forgot to enclose

what Ben Wilder said in relation to

the Kansas Chapters of your book,
as I do not find it in the package.

The last proof I have had

(pages 93-101) I returned to you

at Ithaca on Monday morning the

27th. I will follow your instructions

regard to mailing between this

and May 1st.

In looking over the

letter I wrote to father informing him

of our arrival at Charlestown, I

and of the death and burial of

Jason's little boy, Austin, I notice

that between that account and the

one I gave 28 years afterwards
Put-in-Bay, O. April 29. 85

My dear Friend:

Yours of the 27th inst.
with several of my old letters and
one of Jason’s came last evening.
Probably you forgot to inclose
what Gen. Wilder said in relation
to the Kansas chapters of your book,
as I do not find it in your package.

The last proof I have had,
(pages skips 93-101) I returned to you
at Ithaca on Monday morning the
27th. I will follow your instruc
tions in regard to mailing between this
and May 1st.

In looking over the
letter I wrote to father informing him
of our arrival at Osawatomie,
and of the death and burial of
Jason’s little boy Austin, I notice
that between that account and the
one I gave 28 years afterwards

[along side]
P.S.
Since our number is equally divided and since they (mother
and her children) have had the custody
and control of the medal for the past ten years, is it not at
least fair that the others of our numbers
should decide who should have its custody for the
next ten years at least?
J.B. Jr.
there is a slight discrepancy. In my later statement I said "we buried him at night our lonely way illumined only by the lightning of a furious thunderstorm." After reading the old letter and aided by Wealthy's recollections, I can now give a more exact statement. Just as night was setting in we started, but before we got to the grave, the storm came on with great violence and we sought shelter in a Blacksmith shop and waited an hour or two till the storm continued all night. Wealthy says Jason and I returned in the storm, leaving the little body in its coffin in the Blacksmith shop and next morning went before daylight with it to the grave. Day had begun to dawn before our work was wholly done. My former statement was given on recollections connected with the strongest impressions I had.
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Mr. F. G. Adams in relation to the medal I have received word from her. Though the medal was sent to her Mother as natural representative of the family and though the letter of the French Committee in regard to the medal was addressed to her I cannot see why her children should lay any pretend claim to it, or have any more right than the others of father's family to say into whose care it should be placed. From Jason's letter I conclude that he or Ruth have done word from them in opposition to its being sent to the Kansas Historical Society. If so, our votes on the matter would stand equally divided. If it should be kept as by any of our family I shall have no confidence it will not as Jason says be lost.
Mr. F.G. Adams in relation to the Medal I have received no word from her. Though the medal was sent to her mother as the natural representative of the family and though the letter of the French Committee in regard to the medal was addressed to her I cannot see why her children should lay any preferred claim to it, or have any more right than the others of father’s family to say into whose care it should be placed. From Jason’s letter I conclude that he or Ruth have some word from them in opposition to it being sent to the Kansas Historical Society. If so, our votes on the matter would stand equally divided. If it should be kept as by any one of our family I shall have no confidence it will not, as Jason says, be lost,
Stolen or burned. Your opinion of this matter would weight with Sarah Salmon Anne and Ellen the of more weight than almost any other I can think of. May I not ask that you will offer to them such suggestions and ideas as you may think likely to change their view, and result in placing the medal where it will not only be duly appreciated but placed where it will be safe. The loss would be irreparable. Nothing could be more fair than the proposition made by the Kansas Historical Society, and under the circumstances it seems to almost discourages not to accept them. Sarah wrote me asking what should be done with it. Had I imagined that they wished to retain its possession I should not have written to Mr. Adams as I did. You will readily see that such course on their part places me in a very embarrassing position.

Ever faithfully yours,

F.B. Sanborn, Esq.

John G. Browne
stolen or burned. Your opinion of this matter would with Sarah Salmon Annie and Ellen be of more weight than almost any other I can think of. May I not ask that you will offer to them such suggestions and ideas as you may think likely to change their view, and result in placing the medal where it will not only be duly appreciated, but placed where it will be safe. The loss would be irreparable. Nothing could be more fair than the proposition made by the Kansas Historical Society and under the circumstances it seems to almost discourteous not to accept them. Sarah wrote to me asking what should be done with it. Had I imagined that they wished to retain its possession I should not have written to Mr. Adams as I did. You will readily see that such course on their part places me in a very embarrassing position.

Ever faithfully yours
John Brown Jr.

F.B. Sanborn Esq