De Soto, [N.T.]
April 9
[M/S 1858 By Ent]

M/S

UNLISTED IN CHASE 8
CABEEN

D. 1.5
C.V. 8

Miss Maggie S Kirk

Eckman Ville

Ohio

F/VF (M/S) U 8 ON F/ (Corner Frays, Faint Stain OL)
W/EXCELLENT ENCLOSURE
DESCRIBING PERILS OF
PREEMPTION, WORTHLESS
CURRENCY... MENTIONS CONTINGENT
EVALUATES NEWSPAPERS

SPELLMAN 1974 OTAA

Home April 17th 1858

My Dearest

You cant imagine my joy on receiving four letters from my own sweet maggie It seems an age they have been on the way. The first mailed on the 25 the last on the 31st and all reached here this evening together. our western mails are so sluggish. I have called every mail at the office since my return anticipating some news from you. but have every time until this evening turned away sad and disappointed But O the thrill of joy which I felt when that familiar handwriting met my view upon so many letters. yet that joy was mingled with fear. I almost feared to open them. and twas with a trembling hand. and a mind not a little agitated that I did so, The first I read was the one mailed on the 28th You can not imagine the relief it gave me. on one account. Upon another it bore sad tidings. of your ill health. I had litte expected to receive so sad news. I felt very much alarmed when you first informed me in the city of your condition But not after you explained the cause or supposed cause to me. I then anticipated your recovery in a very short time. and even now I think you should not allow yourself to become alarmed. with proper care of

yourself you will doubtless soon recover. Take good care and dont exercise toomuch, and not worry your mind. fretting over that or anything else. I think if it thought advisable by your parrents and friends. I will return in Sept or Oct and bring you out here. a change of climate and traveling may prove beneficial. I have been improveing some. planting fruit & shade trees in the yard and about the house, and intend building an addition to the house, so soon as I can get the lumber sawed. and will make everything as convenient and comfortable as circumstances will admit off, I have rented my farm to a young man. to tend, so that I will not be so much confined. and my time will not be taken up from improveing as it otherwise necessarily would have been. You need not care for the gossiping of the knowing ones about O.L. for if I live no trifeling misfortune, will prevent me from returning sometime during the coming fall, and if you should get worse dont fail to inform me, as nothing will prevent me from returning then immediately. But I feel in great hopes the next tidings I receive from you will bring the joyful news of your complete recovery. I feel great anxiety in regard to your ill health but as yet not much alarm

My suit in court was decided this week in my favor. They now have the opportunity of taking an appeal to the supreme Court. whether they will or no I cannot tell. Tis also hard telling whether it can be collected or not as all the property belonging to the parties I fear is transferred or covered by mortgage. By a late decision of the Comr. of the general land office at Washington I will probably loose 2 of my preemption deeds. (320) acres worth 12 to 15 hundred dollars. the parties I purchased from are irresponsible and I will have to loose it. Tis hard but cant be helped. I come off much better than most the Land agents and dealers. some loose all they had interest under that decision.

Times are very dull here no Emigration scarcely but little improvements being done and money scarcer than I ever new it before. we have no currency at all except our own (Cert.) money and most of them are very flimsy institutions I took 20$ to my friend Scott cashier of the Desoto Bank to day and wanted him to give me some Eastern money for it. I told him I wanted it to send east. and his paper wouldent go there he said he hadent it to save his life I wanted it to send you. and will get it changed the first chance. I could buy a draft on cinti but you would have to give it to some one to

take down to draw the money for you which I would not want done. for what I send you I would not want known by any person except two by your parrents, and I want (if I get hold of any to send that will pass there) you to accept it not as a gift but as your own, and use it accordingly. Sunday morning. have read your letters over again. feel rather sad and gloomy to think that you are unwell. and I cant be with you to cheer & simpathize. But be in good spirits there is surely a time coming. not far distant. when we will meet and be happy. and only seperated again by death. you asked my conclusion in regard to a store I have abandoned the idea for the present. on account of my means all being invest in lands and no possible show for getting it out until times get better. I have more land than I care about disposing of. should I leave the two prices spoken of. I will then have but (750) acres left. which I call lays in one body and in a beautiful shape. making the most beautiful farm in this country. and out of which I can (if spared with ordinary fortune) make one of the pleasantest homes. for my put maggie in all the western country. the location is admired by all passers by. its just far enough from Desoto to make it pleasant 2 miles and about 3 from running city. on the north and beautiful roads to each. each in full view from our house. we can live perfectly independent. there I should not conclude to live in town (but enough of this) may you speak of receiving any letters mailed on way up the river. if you had not best. then the one containing the n.o. address. and similar ones. should you take down sunday. might they not by some chance be perused. some of them would be considered criminal by others. But never by one I hope not by you Write

700

Well may the other shut. I will not stop but as usual keep on until I worry you quite out. May I have but one regretter that I did not bring you out with me this spring and that has been continually, and when I lament of being lonesome or look down hearted Mary will say "I don't pity you a particle". Dave will say "No matter for you you ought to be happy until you go home and then may out." This and similar sympathy I receive from pretty much all my friends none seem to have any consolation or have any mercy on me in that respect. Well I'm sure by some one some when that "the darkest hour is just before the dawn" therefore I sincerely believe our happiness is close at hand. I was very sorrow to find you casting reflections upon yourself for anything which occurred while we were at the Kennet if there was any crime twas not your fault

Since the above was written, layed down on the lounge and took a nap. Slept over one hour. Now 1 o'clock & a dark dreary Sunday. writing on a large copy of one of my favorite authors (Byron) resting it on my knee and sitting on a trunk by the back window mollie sitting on the lounge playing with the Babe a darke blue eyed fair complected round and very fleshy faced child I'm thick as I'm long cries little or none at all less trouble than any child I ever saw quite a pet as well for me as them at times although I never nurse.

Daves reading the papers. and making a comment now & then. we take several papers. now & territorial N.Y. Tribune. Secon of Temperance (Sp Adams comf) American Gazette. Washington (Something I forget) and have sent for the New York Mercury. getting very literary aint we But I read Byron more than all of them for he expresses my feelings at times clearer than I could do possibly. But let, change the subject) I told you I had rented my farm. to a young man. and he is a New Yorker has his sister. living with him and keeping house for him they are both strict church members and both live fully up to their profession. He is the most prime young man I have met with in the Ter" Her sister is an amiable woman. her age lists her among the old maids 28 is not handsome but. medium very industrious. sort get jealous for she is engaged & so she I. we can sympathize with each other for both our betrothed are back East. She is rather distant and I am glad of it. I will not become intimate. for several reasons I have mind remember I made a promise to you while in the city. which I have not she will not break over under any circumstances. I hold that as sacred now as a marriage tie (changing the subject. I furnished her some garden seeds. among the balance some onions (as you fond of them) and told her in payment to divide. with any she thus fall (the same with mary) she is planting a large fine garden down in front of the house. laying it out nicely and bordering with flowers. She is also ornamenting the yard around the House with all kinds of flowers. planting climbing vines to run along the House. and rose bushes which she gets growing wild on the prairies. last evening I drop'd in a few minutes. She said she would have a nice place for that lady of mine to fall. I told her I knew she would like you when she seen you. She is the greatest hand for flowers I ever seen. Mollie takes no delight in them. (But let stop this) Molly says "tell Mary I hold myself indebted to her many thanks for the nice presents." (dinner over 3 o'clock. Well Mary another leaf almost full and I haven't said half I would like to say 'why is it my letters to you are strung out so long. is the cause I find so much to say or because it takes so many words to express my ideas. The latter I expect I never could condense. Well Mary don't fail to let me hear from you every few days for I will miss you. so take care of yourself and don't labor any. take things easy I will fix a nice place for us here. Your Husband Pink Stout

700