



JACKSON COUNTY, MISSOURI

WAYNE CITY LANDING & TOWN OF INDEPENDENCE

Chas. T. Hayden

1848 March 14

“Independence, MO March 14, 1848

My Dear Mother

I have this moment received Mr. [Jabez] Allen[']s letter of the 23rd ult [abbreviation for “ultimo” meaning past, which in this sense means the previous month] which fully explains the reason of my not having received any information from you for so long a time. I was very much disappointed to learn that you have not received a letter in which I stated that I wished you to ship me several articles which I need very much to take on my trip to Santa Fe. I am now of the opinion that I shall take two trips to Santa Fe this summer instead of one the first of which if I do I shall commence soon, provided you can raise the money and do not comply with the request in the letter that Mr. Allen stated had not been received on the 23rd ult. I wish you to ship by Bingham[']s line to me at this place Care of Wm. G. Moore, Wayne City, MO as soon as you can conveniently make the arrangements the following articles which I will name with the probable cost. I wish to take them on my second trip to Santa Fe and consequently I should wish for them to arrive here by the 1st of June. I wish those articles that can be conveniently baled to be so and when they are put in boxes I wish the boxes to be as light as possible for the safe carriage of goods because the expense of transportation will be fifteen cents for each pound before they will reach their place of destination.

There are few articles on which I shall limit you in your purchases to a certain price and if you cannot obtain them for that price or less do not purchase them. I will mark the price limited.

Of course I expect Mr. Allen to make the purchases and for which I will pay him for his trouble. Wayne City is the Port for Independence and Mr. Moore is the man for whom I am now transacting business. I can pay you the money for the following articles when I first return from Santa Fe or when I return in the Fall the second time.

[Hayden then lists manufactured goods, most in quantities of a dozen or more.]

I wish weights sent with the clocks and should prefer tin canisters of the proper size and construction that might be filled with sand if they could be obtained to the common cast iron weights. You will perceive there is none of the goods that can be baled as I proposed. You ship the goods to me at Independence, MO. I state this because I told you that I was in the employ of Wm. G. Moore. I thought you might direct them to Wayne City alone and thereby create some trouble to the forwarding merchants as it would be a very extensive and minute map that would point out Wayne City. (Perhaps you may call this [map?] inaccurate).

The reception of Mr. Allen[']s letter relieved my mind very much although I was disappointed in learning that you had not received my letters. I wish you to answer this immediately on its



reception and hope that you or Mr. Allen will perform his promise and give me all the particulars concerning my friends etc. etc. etc.

I am with kind regard for all Friends

Your Affectionate Son

Chas. T. Hayden”

*****This 1848 letter clearly states the relationship between Wayne City and Independence. Since Independence was and is not located on the Missouri River, a port on the river was necessary for nineteenth-century Independence to thrive. Researcher Joy Poole found that sometime after Hayden wrote this letter, he first traveled to Santa Fe in 1848, likely as the wagon master of a government supply train. Poole also concluded that Hayden may have carried a supply of goods to sell himself since he requested his mother send him numerous manufactured goods, mostly in quantities of one or more dozen, such as a dozen pocket Spanish-English dictionaries and four dozen packs of playing cards. **Source:** Poole, Joy. “Charles Trumbull Hayden (1825-1900) Santa Fe Trail Merchant and Trader”, *Wagon Tracks*, 31(3): (May 2017), 24-30, letter on pp. 25-26.

Richard Martin May

1848 May 10 through 12

“... When we embarked on board the Steamer *Haydee*... for Independence, Missouri. We Landed Safe [safe] at that point on 10th at 2 in morning. at Wayne City from thence to Independence 2 ½ miles I went on horse back [sic] and employed a Mr. Stone to purchase 6 yoke of oxen and 2 Wagons and other articles of outfit for which I paid him Near \$600.

all things being collected together we Left Independence on the 12 May But previously dispatching an express to Joseph B [no period] Childs who was at the head of the Train for that distant Land and informed him I was on the way who promptly sent me word he would wait or travel Slowly until I Reached him. We Leaves Independence and encamped at the end of 10 miles.”

*****Wayne City Landing also was known as Upper Independence Landing. May talks about “we”. He and his family had left home in central Missouri and had boarded a steamboat on the afternoon of March 7th as the first step in their journey to California. May mentions “Joseph B Childs” and that may be correct. Both a Joseph B. Childs and a Joseph B. Chiles were active with nineteenth-century wagon trains. **Source:** May, Richard Martin. *The Schreek of Wagons: A Sketch of a Migrating Family to California*. Edited by Devere Helfrich and Trudy Ackerman. Hopkinton, Mass.: Rigel Pub., 1993, quote on pp.11-13.