

6-26-1868

Letter from Edward Lea, Randolph Mott, and Sam Frank to Thomas W. Harris. 26 June 1868

Edward Lea

Randolph Mott

Sam Frank

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Cherry Crest Miss
14th March 1868

Col. Thos. W. Harris
Holly Springs Miss

My Dear Sir,

It is under embarrassing circumstances, that I address to you this letter,

But knowing the faults & imperfections that will be afloat in Holly Springs, I feel it my duty, as a friend and a man, to give the facts, and cause of the separation between myself, and wife.

I will not however, commence at the date of our marriage, and give you a detailed account, but merely say, that she has been acting under faults & pretences all the while, up to the time of our separation. And I will now upon the square, give you, to the best of my ability, what transpired.

About four weeks ago, Miss Mattie

Wheatley, came out on a visit to my house, and after being there, some 8. or 10 days, she written a letter to her Sister Fannie, and Parents, that I had been absent from my wife two weeks in succession, and that she was compelled to stay by herself, during that time. She also written that I would sometimes leave home to be gone a week and return the same day.

This writing however, they tried to keep concealed from me, but I learned ^{that} ~~was~~ day ~~was~~ what she had written, and knowing it was basely faults, which I can prove by all my neighbors, I was vexed, and asked her if she did write it and the cause of her doing so. She answered that Mollie had told her what she had written, I then told Mollie if she could not visit her Sister without writing faultshoods back to her people, I would rather she would stay at home.

I then turned to my wife and

asked her, if she said, that I had been
absent from home two weeks, and
whether, or not, she corroborated with
Mattie in all that she had written.
She answered that she did, and that she
told her to write the letter.

I then told her if that was the respect
she had for me, that I was in favor of a
final separation, and she agreed to it.

I made preparations to send her home
immediately, This was in the evening,

That night she began to reflect on
what she had said and done, Came to me
and said she was sorry for what she
had done, and begged my forgiveness.

I was disposed to do what was right,
and willing to forgive. And agreed to her
proposals, In a few days after that,
Mattie was sent for to go home, And
news was written by her, for her Parents
to send for her. This was all done secre-
tely from me, I did not know anything
about it until the conveyance was



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