

A3.1 - Letter from Jabez Dean DeWitt of Virginia City Nevada to Elizabeth (Ferguson) DeWitt and her daughters, 23 April 1871. Transcribed 28 April 2014 by Alison Mitchell-Reid. Page one of four

Virginia City Nevada
April 23rd 1871

Dear Mother and Sisters,

I arrived here yesterday morning at daylight from Reno City, a station on the Central Pacific Railway. It would be impossible for you to conceive a more mountainous Country. This place, Gold Hill & Silver City, contiguous to each other, are devoted almost entirely to mining, assaying, &c &c. from Gold Hill, a Railway extends to Carson City and from thence in course of construction to Reno. I set myself immediately to work to get a place to work. I got a letter from a Gentleman of San Francisco & a fellow passenger to a Brother of his at Gold Hill Recommending me. I saw the party who advised me to

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keep out the mines. the shaft extends 850 feet deep into the mountain and from what I saw do not intend to work in a place like that. I have seen William Sellers who looks first rate & is doing well. I am about getting a place & expect an answer today or tomorrow. The altitude of this city is 6200 ft above the sea level, making the air quite thin. A person becomes easily

fatigued walking up these steep
Hills. There are a great many
Chinese here who live in small
bits of houses with squallid
& filthy looks also Digger & other
Indian tribes have camps just
outside the city limits, their
tents consist of old rags of every
variety and shade, supported by
pointed sticks. tents contain
I should suppose from 40 to 100

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of those miserable creatures. they
generally have their faces painted
or rather striped with vermilion
& again with black. I cannot
begin to names of the different
mines in this vicinity. there are the
Belcher, Nevada, Gould &
Park & Bowie &c &c, I shall write
at another time giving you an a/c
of my trip from Montreal to
Reno. of course we travelled night
& day. so that I shall only be able
to give an account of my day
travel. Please give my respects
to Mr. Jas Davidson & uncle & tell
him that I am well and have a
good prospect before me and that
I have heard of his cousin James &
that he is doing well, although
I have not seen him. I desire to
be remembered to those at
home that are & have been my

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friends, not those that robbed me. It has been very expensive for me coming here, but I hope with the help of my Creator to be able to get back to Canada in two years if spared with enough for my wants. Give my love to Andrew and the little ones and keep a large share for yourselves. Address me when you write,

JD DeWitt
Virginia City
Nevada
U S

I am sincerely & affectionately
your loving & affectionate
son and brother,
JD DeWitt

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Virginia City
Nevada

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Your loving affectionate
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