

Virginia City Nevada Nov 6/71
My Dear Sister Becca,

With feelings
of thankfulness, I write to you
this is the first day after pay day. I
must say that I can complain
at present, as I have better fare
and lodgings than I had at
first had. to the number of
thirteen we built a cooking
and eating hall at our own
expense and have a high toned
China cook to make our hash.
the opposition house calls us
the twelve apostles. The work on
which I am at work is a most
gigantic affair the dam will
contain about 375 feet of timber
the flume and tressle work will be

the largest on this coast and when
finished about one mile in length
I should have said that the mill
would be the largest on this coast
and calculated to run 60 stamp
Batteries and pans and settlers
for running tailings, so they are
called. I have \$250 in Bank and
the Bank owes me 25^s. I have had
to buy Bedding & clothes Boots &
shoes and have a splendid
lot of tools to work with. I have
to go back to work this afternoon
and must hurry with this as
it is after 2 P.M. and I have some
thing to attend to before I leave. I
subscribed for the Alta California

for one month and had it sent
to our Butcher who promised to leave
it at the mill for me, and the
only one he left is the one I send.

A3.15 - Letter from Jabez Dean DeWitt of Virginia City Nevada to Rebecca DeWitt Jack,
6 Nov 1871. Transcribed 20 September 2015 by Alison Mitchell-Reid. Page three of
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I was sorry that it got so badly
soiled. When I got it, there is
some nice pieces in it one is
[Comting?] in Nebraska. You will
also see a piece about a fire
in China Town near our mill.
If you saw this country you
would be astonished. We have
not had a decent shower of
rain since I came here, but one
or two last summer, and if you
saw the place that I am at work
on you would be amazed. the cliffs
rise almost perpendicularly on each
side of the river and our work
is often interrupted by the cry of
fire from a man blasting in
the cliff or edge of the river. The
mill is expected to be in full oper-
ation by the first of March next.
it would astonish you if you saw
the avalanche of rocks that

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came down the steep sides of
the river when the men are grading
for dam and flume tressle. The
days are getting short and snow
is beginning to cover the moun-
tains of this rugged rocky country.
We are also having very cold nights

& frost covers almost every thing
in the mountains and valleys the
sun is still strong when she is
to be seen, from which we work
which is but a short time in the
day Viz! from 12:00 to about 3:30 P.M.
We still have grapes in great abundance
and apples, pears, lemons, limes,
wild duck, wild geese, antelope
deer, elk meat. Buffalo, Beef
and trout is abundant in our
market. Mining stock is dull
at this time of the year. I would
have made \$200 on stock this last
month if I had not taken a man's
advice. I had five shares bought
and sold it on call for what
I paid. I am sorry that I advised
you or Andrew to buy the old
place. If Andrew thought proper
he might come to this coast, say
California as the foliage is green,
the year round and the climate beautiful
continued J.D. DW

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and the climate & soil for a living
cannot be excelled on this earth.
Men are coming back here that had
left for the east for good and say that
they intend to remain. Please remember me
to Mr. A. McNaughton give him my thanks &
respects and that I shall write to him. Also
to Miss Rustin give my love to all at the
old place tell Andrew that I advise him
to sell the old place. Perhaps James Davi-
dson would buy. tell Andrew not to
trust one of the three boys but to push
the sale and pay himself & the girls and
not let it run any longer.

Yours most affectionately, J.D. DeWitt

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P.S. I can not get time to write as I used. I earned \$150 last month and my boss is well pleased with me. J.D. DW. Please give my respects to Mr. & Mrs. Davidson, Miss McEachern, and Mr. Stickler. When you see him, tell him that I received a paper for which please thank him. Kiss Dolly & Freddy the stock of Holiday presents are not in yet. When they come I hope to be prepared.

J.D. DW

Virginia City Nevada Nov 6/91
My Dear Lisa Beece,

With feelings
of thankfulness, I write to you
this the first day after payday. I
must say that I can complain
at present, as I have better food
and lodgings than I had at
first had, to the number of
thirteen we built a cooking
and eating hall at our own
expense and have a high toned
China cook to make our hash,
the Opposition house calls us
the twelve apostles, The work on
which I am at work is a most
gigantic affair the Dam will
contain about 375 feet of timber
the flume and trestle work will be

the largest on this Coast and when
finished about one mile in length
I should have said that the mill
would be the largest on this Coast
and calculated to run 60 stamp
batteries and pans and rollers
for grinding tailings as they are
called. I have \$250 in Bank and
the Bank owes me 25 I have had
to buy Bedding & clothes Boots
shoes and have a splendid
lot of tools to work with. I have
to go back to work this afternoon
and must hurry with this as
it is after 2 P.M. and I have some
thing to attend to before I leave. I
subscribed for the Alta California
for one month and had it sent
to our Butcher who promised to leave
it at the mill for me, and the
only one he left is the one I send

I was sorry that it got so badly
soiled upon & got it. This is
some nice pictures & one is
coming in. I have a few more
also see a few about a few
in Canada. I was near our mill.
If you saw this country you
would be astonished. We have
not had a decent shower of
rain since I came here but one
or two last summer, and if you
saw the place that I am to work
on you would be amazed. The cliffs
are almost perpendicular on each
side of the river, and our work
is often interrupted by the cry of
fire from a man standing in
the cliff or edge of the bank. The
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