

A3.27 - Letter from Jabez Dean DeWitt of Virginia City Nevada to Rebecca (DeWitt) Jack, 6 November 1872. Transcribed 31 January 2016 by Alison Mitchell-Reid. Page one of four

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Virginia City Nevada Nov 6<sup>th</sup> 1872

My Dear Sister Becca,

I was glad on calling at the Post Office this evening to receive two letters, one from Andrew & the other from you with a note from Sister Chattie enclosed. I had begun to feel anxious about you all, and supposed that perhaps my last letters had miscarried or that they had been too heavy for what stamps were affixed but I became satisfied otherwise on receipt of your letters. I am engaged at the Hale & Norcross mine framing timbers for the mine & doing whatever other carpenter work I may be called upon to do. We have to work with alacrity here I can assure you but I never felt better in my life. James Davidson left here for Virginia (where his Father lives)

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James & Joe Wilders are working one in Gold Hill the other in this city. they are cousins of J<sup>as</sup> Feeny's. I am glad Feeny has gone to work again, and was sorry to think of his loosing little Charley. This place is much more healthy than it was last summer. the air is very light here the steam from the mines goes but a little way in the air when it falls like a fine shower of

rain from the steam pipes. times  
are very good here now & great  
activity prevails in every depart-  
ment of industry. the chances  
of a poor man are good here  
that is industrious & saving.  
I understand that one of the  
Murphy<sup>s</sup> is here from the old  
Murphy place Ireland of Jamestown.  
This place is better for Carpenters  
than Blacksmiths. a Blacksmith  
here gets only \$5 pr day and he

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has to work like a slave to get  
that. Millwrights get from \$6 to \$8  
pr day, engineers get from \$5 to \$6 pr  
day servant girls from \$40 to \$50 &  
as high as \$100 pr month and board  
they marry off pretty fast here. I can  
assure you that the Ladies here  
have good times, and they know  
it. Childrens toys here are of a  
superior class. Good milliners do  
well here. Boots & shoes are excellent  
here. Wood was selling a few days  
ago at \$20 pr cord and common  
pine at that it is selling now  
at \$16. one of the tunnells took  
fire on the Virginia & Truckee  
R.R. & the timbers were burned  
and earth & rock caved in, but  
they have gone to work and made  
a road round the tunnell & resumed  
traffic. People turn out here strong  
for Grant & Wilson with bonfires,  
Japanese lamps & Grant invin-

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cible capes & hats with frill works  
&c &c speeches & music. The  
election is now over & people  
are resuming their usual  
avocations. Give my love to all.  
Tell Fred that if I get back soon  
I will make him & Dolly a nice  
swing. Please remember me to all  
enquiring friends. W. Seller is Foreman  
at Shaft No. 1 Sutro Tunnell and  
he offered to give me a job at \$5 pr day  
but I would not leave my place. I trust  
dear Becca that you will get settled  
in a good home that will be perma-  
nent where you will not be dragged  
to death with hard work & anxiety.  
It is getting late, as I wrote to Andrew  
to night and mailed his letter which  
I will not be able to do with yours  
until tomorrow. My prospects are  
a great deal better than when last  
I wrote.

I shall ever remain  
most affectionately  
your brother, J.D. DeWitt

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P.S.

I expect to hear from you by the  
expiration of this ~~next~~ month. J.D. DW  
I fitted a school house up for  
private parties calculated for 15  
to 20 scholars & I wished that  
Sister Hattie had the school. A  
Frenchman has it. J.D. DeWitt

Virginia City Nevada Nov 6<sup>th</sup> 1872

My Dear Sister Rebecca,

I was glad on calling  
at the Post Office this evening to receive  
two letters, one from Andrew & the  
other from you, with a note from  
Sister Charles enclosed. I had begun  
to feel anxious about you all, and  
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letter had miscarried or that they  
had been too heavy for what  
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satisfied otherwise on receipt of  
your letters. I am engaged at the  
Hall & Messers mine framing timber  
for the mine & doing whatever other  
contractor work I may be called  
upon to do. We have to work with  
abundantly here I can assure  
you that I never felt better in  
my life. James Davidson left here  
for Virginia. (where his Father lives)

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the steam from the mines goes  
but a little way in the air when  
it falls like a fine shower of  
rain from the steam pipes. Mines  
are very good here now & great  
activity prevails in every depart-  
-ment of industry, the chances  
of a poor man are good here  
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I understand that one of the  
Murphy's is here from the old  
Murphy place Ireland of January.  
This place is better for Carpenters  
than Blacksmiths, a Blacksmith  
here gets only \$5 per day and he

has to work like a slave to get  
that. Millwrights get from \$6 to \$8.  
per day, engineers get from \$5 to \$6 per  
day servant girls from \$40 to \$50  
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I will make him & Dolly a ride  
swing. Please remember me to all  
enquiring friends. W. Teller is Foreman  
at Shaft No. 1. Tuto Linnell, and  
he offered to give me a job at \$7 per day  
but I would not leave my place. I trust  
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in a good home that will be penma-  
nent where you will not be dragged  
to death with hard work & anxiety.  
It is getting late as I wrote to Andrew  
to night & mailed his letter which  
I will not be able to do with yours  
until tomorrow. My prospects are  
a great deal better than when last  
I wrote.

I shall ever remain

Most Affectionately,

Your Brother J. W. Webb